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Raynor Roberts of Florence, Montana, pauses at the grave of his brother, Jack, at the American Military Cemetery above Omaha Beach yesterday. Jack was killed during the D-Day landing on the Normandy beaches. (AP)

Aging vets revisit D-Day beaches

OMAHA BEACH (AP) - From as far as California and New Zealand, the gray-haired men who risked their lives and lost their pals while making history 50 years ago came back yesterday for one more look at the once-bloody beaches of D-Day.

They were praised by presidents and monarchs, entertained by marching bands. But many came for a last private pilgrimage, not for the fanfare.

"I came back to deliver thanks and a small prayer from many, many people back home," said Bill Pepe, 73, a retired engineer from Hampstead, North Carolina, who landed at the peak of the fighting at Omaha Beach.

"I thought I owed it not only to the people I fought with, but to everybody lying in those small graves up there," he said, gesturing to the US cemetery on a bluff above the beach.

Bill Clinton, the first US president born after World War II, movingly evoked the invaders' heroism in a speech to veterans at the cemetery where 9,386 of their comrades are buried.

"They secured a foothold for freedom," he said. "Today many of them are here among us. They may walk with a little less spring in

their step, and their ranks are growing thinner. But let us never forget when they were young, these men saved the world."

On a damp, windy day much like June 6, 1944, Clinton, Queen Elizabeth II and other leaders of the Allied nations presided solemnly at a series of ceremonies along the Normandy coast.

The climax was a multinational commemoration at Omaha Beach, site of D-Day's bloodiest combat.

"I thank you for the world's freedom," French President Francois Mitterrand said. "What we won that day on the Normandy beaches was our freedom today."

Earlier, Mitterrand joined Clinton to place wreaths at a monument to US soldiers at Utah Beach, then went to a British cemetery at Bayeux with Queen Elizabeth.

"The Europe which we know today could not exist had not the tide of war been turned here in Normandy 50 years ago," Queen Elizabeth said.

Throughout the region, there was fog, mist and light rain, the kind of weather the Allies encountered on June 6, 1944. The queen donned a big rain cape; veterans huddled against the chill in hats and windbreakers.

"All gave some, some gave all," read matching white windbreakers worn by Edwin Pound, 78, a former P-47 Thunderbolt pilot from Ocoee, Florida, and other members of the 9th Air Force, 404th fighter group.

Younger members of the audiences were impressed, including French children who fanned through the grandstands getting veterans' autographs in their programs.

"To actually stand here is beyond belief," said Staff Sgt. Edmund Sealey, 25, of Cleveland, Tenn., a current soldier in the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division, which played a key role in the invasion. "To see the actual veterans... to actually shake their hands, it was a kind of passing of the torch."

About 100,000 people attended the ceremonies to mark the half century since 156,000 Allied soldiers crossed the English Channel aboard the largest armada in history and breached Hitler's Atlantic Wall.

The landing, which left 10,000 Allied soldiers dead or wounded, gained a foothold that allowed millions of soldiers to pour into France and help defeat Nazi Germany 11 months later.

Shares plummet on TASE

'There is a major confidence crisis on the market'

NEIL COHEN and GALIT LIPKIS

SHARES on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange registered some of their sharpest falls in recent history yesterday after Sunday's technical bounce.

The Two-Sided Index of leading shares plunged 5.73% to 172.3 points, the level obtained two years ago, while the narrow Maof index sank 5.68%. The Karam index of smaller shares fell by 4.4% to 178.09. This more moderate fall was an indication of a certain amount of selectivity, as more than 150 Karam issues were listed sellers only.

The market's mood was grim and one capital market analyst said: "There is a major confidence crisis on the market. The public's nervousness is further heightened by the market's extreme volatility. When the market goes up 4% one day and down 6% the next, it's

time to get out. My guess is that we haven't seen the end of it."

Trading opened with excess supply of NIS 200 million and excess demand of only NIS 25 million. Turnover was low as the big players - the provident funds - stayed on the sidelines and only portfolio managers and speculators were active.

Mutual funds entered the fray in the afternoon, but brought the market little cheer, selling more and more as the day wore on and they were faced with redemptions of tens of millions of shekels. Later, when no demand materialized, the mood worsened and prices progressively deteriorated.

During the afternoon the provident funds, particularly those of Bank Leumi and Bank Hapoalim, began to buy stocks and turnover rose - but their intervention failed to stem the market's slide.

One of the surprising phenomena yesterday was the weakness in some of the market's largest stocks, generally perceived to be the most solid. The fact that buyers were nowhere to be found even when these shares had fallen 10% contributed to the panic.

United Mizrahi Bank was reported to be a big seller of shares traded on the Maof. Koor fell by 6.7%, Bezek and Discount Investments by 6%, First International 1, Israel Chemicals and Poalim Investments all plummeted 10%.

Traders failed to come up with any new explanations for the market's behavior and the banks refused to comment. The latter denied reports that the banks are forcing customers to liquidate positions taken with borrowed money.

Shlomo Meir, a broker for the Central Securities Corp. said: "No

one expected the market to behave in this way, but many people are pressured for credit. The public's demand for credit was reflected in the very large mutual fund redemptions. The previous day's gains encouraged investors to get out of the market. Some of the banks' branch managers have pressured customers to sell their investments in order to repay bank loans."

However, a Bank Hapoalim spokesman responded: "They [brokers] are looking for a reason to explain the fall, but this is not the reason."

Both the Treasury and Bank of Israel refused to comment on the market's crash and a Treasury spokesman refused to respond when asked whether the Treasury saw the plunge as a vote of no-confidence in the government's economic policies.

Jose Rosenfeld also contributed to this report.

More market coverage, Page 9

How does it affect me?

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

NEIL COHEN

I don't own any stocks or mutual funds. How does the stock market crash affect me?

If you have a pension plan or provident fund (*kupat gemel*) investment, or a *keren hishtalmut*, these will all almost certainly have some shares in the savings they have invested for you. The proportion of shares they hold will vary according to the plan or fund's charter and investment approach. However, the fall in the value of your investment will likely be much less dramatic than that of the TASE and may be cushioned by previously accumulated profits.

I own stocks/mutual funds. Should I sell?

If you think the market will recover, and the money you have invested is money you can afford to risk and are unlikely to need it in a hurry, and you have the nerves to ride out some more volatility, then it is probably best to hang on. Investing should be a long-term proposition, and few

people are smart enough to call the top of the market, or the bottom.

Should I buy now?

As above, you need to be able to afford the risk, not need the money in a hurry and have the nerves. Unless you have a real gambling streak, one cautious approach is to invest a portion of the total you want to invest each time the market falls by a certain predetermined amount. Then, if the market falls further, your average buying-in price falls with it. You will have bought a little too high, but as I said above, few people can time the market perfectly.

Where's the safest place to put my money?

As the market falls, the banks are rushing out with other products with which to compete for savers' money. Hence rates on deposits are rising. CPI and dollar-linked deposits are paying pretty attractive rates right now.

A vicious cycle

ANALYSIS

NEIL COHEN

YESTERDAY'S plunge on the TASE shows signs of becoming a vicious cycle. As the market falls, all but the long-term players - the provident funds - are frightened into cashing out.

Small investors panic as they see the value of their holdings slashed. And it seems likely the banks are leaning on customers to pay back the loans to buy stocks they were so eager to advance them. The further the market falls the thinner the margin - where it still remains - between the size of the loan and the value of the securities it used to buy.

The crisis of confidence seems sufficiently deep that the provident funds are reluctant to commit substantial funds to prop up the market, for fear that it will continue to slide and they will wind up with egg on their faces. Better to play it safe and achieve disappointing returns than to stick their necks out and run the risk of having to report really terrible results.

And on a more real level, a lower stock market will dent company liquidity and profitability, since so many companies have invested surplus cash in the stock market. Lower profits will further hurt the market. Moreover, much of the recent buoyant consumption has been financed out of investor's sizeable stock market gains. The market's fall will inevitably impact on purchases of big-ticket items, again hurting company profitability and already slowing economic growth.

Whenever the market goes from here - and it may recover, though only slowly - the great five-and-a-half-year bull market is decidedly over, and many investors will think twice before they rush to hand over their money the next time around.

Peres letter in October '93 encouraged Palestinian institutions in capital

DAVID MAKOVSKY and DAN ZENBERG

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres pledged last fall to preserve all Palestinian institutions in eastern Jerusalem, saying their work was "essential" and should be "encouraged."

Last night, Peres's bureau issued the letter that he wrote to the late Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst at PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's insistence.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office confirm that the Peres letter dated October 11, 1993, was written with the premier's authorization.

The letter constitutes a considerable embarrassment for the government, since its spokesmen have for weeks denied Arafat's assertion that he has a letter from Israel in Jerusalem. To minimize their credibility problem, government officials are saying the letter was addressed to Holst instead of Arafat.

Furthermore, nowhere in the letter does it indicate that establishment of future Palestinian institutions in eastern Jerusalem needs Israeli authorization. To the contrary, the letter states, "we will not hamper their activity; on the contrary, the fulfillment of this important mission is to be encouraged." The letter goes beyond the wording of Peres's Knesset speech of last September on preserving Moslem and Christian holy sites and ethnic institutions in the city.

Peres aides insist that the foreign minister was primarily referring to social welfare offices taking care of Palestinian needs, and not political bodies such as Orient House. At the same time, these aides noted that Orient House was established while the Likud was in power in 1991.

Both these aides and officials in

Text of Peres's letter

Jerusalem, October 11, 1993

Dear Minister Holst,

I wish to confirm that the Palestinian (sic) institutions of East Jerusalem and the interests and well-being of the Palestinians (sic) of East Jerusalem are of great importance and will be preserved. Therefore, all the Palestinian (sic) institutions of East Jerusalem, including the economic, social, educational, and cultural, and the hold Christian and Moslem places, are performing an essential task for the Palestinian (sic) population.

Needless to say, we will not hamper their activity; on the contrary, the fulfillment of this important mission is to be encouraged.

Sincerely,

Shimon Peres
 Foreign Minister of Israel

the Prime Minister's Office say that Palestinians will require Israeli authorization to create any future institutions in eastern Jerusalem. Just last month, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin recently convened an interministerial committee on Jerusalem, and called for limiting Palestinian institutions in the city.

Speaking to the Labor Knesset faction yesterday, Peres said the letter saved the situation from collapse, but was sent to Holst after the signing of the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles and was not part of the agreement. Peres told the Labor faction that on the night before the initialing of the agreement in Oslo, the negotiations between Israel and the PLO were on the verge of collapse, because the Palestinians refused to have their autonomy institutions located in Jericho instead of Jerusalem.

"We stood firm on this," a source who attended the closed faction meeting quoted Peres as saying. "The talks were about to collapse. We did not conceal anything from them and we agreed that those institutions already located in Jerusalem would remain."

The timing of the date on the letter - October 11 - is interesting. Just a couple of days earlier, Rabin held his first working session with Arafat in Cairo, leading to speculation that Arafat complained he had not yet received

assurances on Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem.

In response to the release of the letter, Likud MK Benny Begin issued a blistering attack on the government. "The letter severely impairs Israel's sovereignty over its capital," he said, terming the government "stupid." Begin demanded disclosures of other possible governmental letters.

Some 120 Palestinian religious, political, and community leaders who met yesterday at Orient House authorized Faisal Hussein to deal with issues related to Jerusalem and the question of how they will be addressed in future negotiations with Israel.

The participants called for recognition of the right of freedom of movement and of expression for all Palestinians in eastern Jerusalem, which they said is part of the Palestinian territory captured by Israel in 1967.

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Pollard was traitor who spied for money, says Aspin

STEVE RODAN

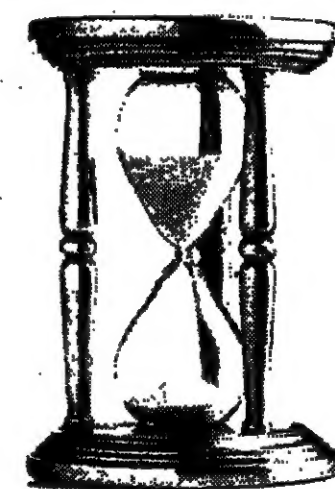
FORMER US defense secretary Les Aspin last night called Jonathan Pollard "a traitor to his country" who spied for Israel solely for money.

Appearing at Hebrew University, Aspin said: "I think Jonathan Pollard was a traitor to his country. I think he deserved the sentence that he got. He didn't do it for Israel. It did it solely for cash. He later made up the notion that he did it for Israel. He is not a hero."

Aspin, who left office this year, recommended that Pollard serve his full life sentence, saying he had passed on classified information from his jail cell. Pollard was convicted for spying for Israel and has so far served eight years.

On another issue, Aspin said the deployment of US troops on the Golan would be a strain on the American military. He said the current proposal to deploy a brigade would, under current Pentagon guidelines, involve preparing a division for the task. This would constitute one tenth of American forces. "That's getting to be significant," he said. "It's not like the Sinai, which was trivial."

But Aspin said the US would consider military deployment if it is essential to Syrian-Israeli peace. He added that the current administration is realizing that Washington will have to provide large amounts of aid to Damascus to convince it to sign an agreement with Israel.



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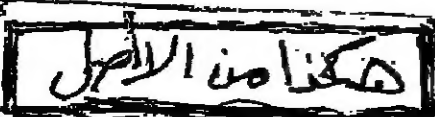
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Peres puts Rome issue on hold

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres has postponed a Foreign Ministry meeting on reformulating the government's policy towards Rome, until after he meets his Italian counterpart Antonio Martino in Luxembourg next week.

"The whole issue is on hold until after the Peres-Martino meeting next week," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Senior Foreign Ministry officials said privately that the ministry meeting had planned to address such measures as temporarily recalling Israel's ambassador or suspending high-level visits. Peres aides, however, denied such measures were under consideration.

Peres sought yesterday to quiet the debate within the ministry on

how to deal with the new Italian government, which includes five neo-fascist ministers.

Peres aides hinted yesterday that they were not pleased with Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin's statements calling for a more aggressive stance in dealing with the new Italian government.

Peres told reporters yesterday that Israel would not "jump to conclusions" about the new government until he had met Martino.

"Let me say that between Italy and Israel there was a very warm and very friendly relationship and I hope it will be the case in the future. I do not believe that... Italian policy concerning Israel is going to deteriorate," Peres said.

Italian diplomatic sources in Rome suggested to Reuters that

DAVID MAKOVSKY
and news agencies

the Martino-Peres meeting would put Italian-Israeli relations on a less confrontational footing.

"We expect only a positive outcome from that meeting," an Italian diplomatic source said. "We would like to consider [Beilin's remarks] as something that does not reflect the view of the entire Israeli government," the source said.

Beilin told Army Radio earlier this week that Israel had refused to congratulate Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi on his appointment last week because of the presence in his cabinet of five ministers from the neo-fascist-led National Alliance.

The alliance's core party, the

Italian Social Movement (MSI), traces its roots to Benito Mussolini, and provides three of the five National Alliance ministers in the Berlusconi coalition.

"Their election and participation in the government is certainly something very problematic in our view," Beilin said.

Beilin also said that Israel had declined to send a cultural delegation to Italy next month.

Beilin's statements followed published remarks by MSI leader Gianfranco Fini that fascism was not "negative as a whole" until Mussolini introduced antisemitic race laws in 1938.

Fini on Monday said Beilin's criticisms were "tilting at windmills" and not worthy of a response.

Martino, a member of Berlusconi's Forza Italia (Go Italy) party,

has been on a diplomatic offensive in Europe and the United States to ally international concern over the National Alliance, which Fini says is a Gaullist-style movement. Martino told American Jewish leaders two weeks ago that the new government would be the most pro-Israel in Italian history.

Last month, Italy asked Argentina for the extradition of former SS captain Eric Priebke. Priebke is accused of participating in the 1944 massacre of 355 Italian civilians, including 70 Jews.

Berlusconi reaffirmed his country's intention to insist upon extradition in a Rome meeting with officials of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center last week.

NEWSLINE

with PROF. MARINA SOLODKIN

Solodkin, formerly of Moscow University, is a professor at the Mayors' Center for Russian, Eurasian and Eastern European Studies at the Hebrew University and is active in the Zionist Forum.

Half a million new immigrants have arrived from the former Soviet Union since 1989. How do the immigrants feel about this?

We have mixed feelings. Of course there is happiness, but there could have been one million this year. Did you notice how little attention the event has been given in the Israeli media? The Israeli public is tired of receiving immigrants - from all parts of the world. Israel wants to be a normal western-type country. I see in some signs of the decay of Zionism. Zionism may be turning into consumerism. There is no sector that is really making an effort to absorb us.

But the first-rate academics have surely been well absorbed?

It's very difficult to get into the aristocratic club of the university establishment. Even in [Leonid] Brezhnev's time, we managed to establish ourselves in Russian universities. This is the second time we are fighting. It's even more difficult in the public sector - government, schools - where you come up against the closed world of "keviur" (tenure). But in the private sector, the gifted and educated can prove themselves. They work hard, de-

spite the myths Israelis have about the immigrants.

Can you describe some of these "myths"?

The religious sector sees us as non-religious and therefore cannot relate to us. For the Ashkenazim, we are a new era, the "poor relatives," with whom they have lost the link. They underestimate the level and scope of Soviet science and culture.

The Oriental communities react to us like the Ashkenazim related to them in the Fifties. They're ready to give us back a blow now. For the right-wing parties, we're not nationally motivated enough. The left-wing are interested in a democratic state and give us no special attention because they treat Jews, Arabs and Druse alike.

Is there no ray of hope?

There are the volunteers, like Keren Klita-Yerushalayim, and lots of ordinary Israelis who have volunteered on a personal basis to absorb the immigrants. But they are helpless and impotent in the face of the general feeling.

The government said it was giving aliyah priority...

If the public doesn't put pressure on the government, they won't give it priority. We are a small country without resources, and must not liquidate the intellectual potential of immigration.

Basheva Tsor

UNIFIL denounces Hizbullah for attacks

DAVID RUDGE

THE UNIFIL command yesterday strongly condemned Hizbullah for its involvement in a chain of attacks against UN positions and soldiers over the weekend, in which two members of the Fijian contingent were killed and three others wounded.

UNIFIL has also asked the Lebanese Army to help apprehend the attackers.

The Jerusalem Post learned that the Lebanese army was also assisting in communicating to the extremist Shi'ite organization UNIFIL's "total denunciation" of Hizbullah's behavior in connection with the attacks which occurred last Friday.

UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said that originally in the clashes with Hizbullah gunmen one Fijian soldier was killed and three others were wounded, one of them seriously.

He said the badly wounded soldier had subsequently died of his wounds in the Nahariya government hospital where he was transferred after receiving emergency treatment at UNIFIL's own hospital at the force's Nakoura headquarters.

Goksel noted that seriously wounded soldiers were normally transferred to Haifa's Rambam Hospital which has an established record in treating severe trauma cases and the necessary equipment to do so.

"We contacted Rambam on Friday, but were told that the hospital was full and they couldn't accept the wounded soldier for treatment. We have had fantastic

support from Rambam over the years which UNIFIL deeply appreciates, but on this occasion, for some reason, they couldn't help," said Goksel.

Dr. Zvi Ben-Ishai, deputy director of Rambam, said they had learned the wounded soldier required a bed in an intensive care unit, but on that occasion there were no vacancies.

"If an IDF soldier had required similar treatment on the same day we would have acted in the same way because regrettably we had no beds vacant in any of our intensive care units," said Ben-Ishai.

"Rambam serves as UNIFIL's base hospital and we are happy to continue to do so but, unfortunately, on this specific occasion we were unable to help," he added.

The incident in which the Fijian soldier was seriously wounded and another of his comrades moderately hurt occurred around 2 a.m. Friday, when Hizbullah gunmen opened fire on the UNIFIL troops as they were starting a routine night patrol near Kilaib village east of Tyre. The troops returned fire, killing one of the attackers.

Later, apparently in retaliation for the death of one of their men, Hizbullah gunmen attacked three UN positions in the same region with RPG and machine gun fire, wounding another Fijian soldier. In another attack on Friday night, Hizbullah gunmen opened fire from a passing vehicle at a UNIFIL checkpoint, killing a Fijian soldier and moderately wounding another member of the contingent.



Six-year-old Stephanie Carter of London, who suffers from a disease that causes premature aging in children, last week realized her dream of seeing the Holy Land before she dies, thanks to El Al and St. George Cathedral staff. Carter made her request by phone to an English charity, and when El Al officials heard of it, they and the cathedral staff arranged for her and her grandmother, Kim Eastwood (left), to spend a week here, visiting holy sites in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Stephanie and her grandmother returned to England Sunday with memories, pictures, and gifts to help her remember a very special trip.

IDF: Not enough Israeli police in territories

ALON PINKAS

THE number of Israeli policemen patrolling the territories is insufficient, and the burden of law enforcement falls on the army which is ill-equipped to carry out these missions, a senior army source said yesterday.

The source emphasized that after the beginning of the implementation of the Oslo accord, a decision was made to create a new police command, "but it is taking too long and until enough policemen are actually deployed in the territories, the army is carrying the burden."

The army has for some time been expressing concern that the time and level of training is being compromised, and that entire combat

units stationed or deployed in the areas are not training regularly because of police tasks they are requested to perform.

"Preventing or fighting terrorism is certainly our job, but patrolling highways and escorting settlers in and out of their homes is hardly the army's raison d'être. That is why we have police," said the senior source.

Another army source said while these arguments "are valid, especially coming from a field commander," the Police Ministry is doing its utmost to complete organizational preparations for the establishment of the command, which will be responsible for all Jewish residents living in the areas.

CORRECTION

The producers of Peter Gabriel's WOMAD (World of Music Arts and Dance) Mid-east tour have announced that Lou Reed will perform at both the Taba (June 18) and Tel Aviv (June 19) concerts.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, jack of hearts, nine of diamonds and queen of clubs.

Shas and Meretz talk, but fail to reach agreement

SARAH HONG

AN attempt to reach an agreement between Shas and Meretz, which would facilitate Shas's return to the coalition, fell through last night and both sides report no progress whatsoever.

The formal pretext for Shas's failure thus far to act on its undertaking to re-join the coalition is a phrase inserted in the basic law bill by Meretz MK Dedi Zucker repeating the declaration of independence commitment to the freedom of religion. This has angered Shas, which now demands the basic law include a commitment to maintain the status quo on religious affairs.

This was not rejected out of

hand by Meretz, which was willing to negotiate some sort of a formula that would appease Shas. Relations between the two parties improved markedly after both joined Ramon's Histadrut bloc.

However, both sides yesterday failed to find the legalistic formulation on the status quo which could survive a court challenge. The status quo, stressed the Meretz side, is not a legally binding term.

Shas is said to have other reasons for avoiding a return to the coalition now, most notably inner division over who would get which portfolio and opposition among hawkish Shas voters.

Hamas considers political opposition

LAMIA LAHOUD

once Hamas decides to form a political party, it will also participate in general elections for the autonomous council.

"We have information that Hamas is trying to operate politically. They will not join the autonomous council quite yet, but they are preparing themselves for the elections," said the Fatah leader. He believes Hamas will have both a political party and an armed movement. "And the party will control the actions of the movement, the way Fatah is doing," he said.

Hamas is ready to participate in local elections to municipalities,

chambers of commerce, or student councils, he said. At this point, he said, Hamas cannot participate in the authority, because the gap between it and the PLO leadership is too wide.

"We are not just disagreeing with certain terms of the agreement, we are asking the PLO to cancel the agreement altogether," he said.

Hamas leaders are no longer opposed to having members join the Palestinian Police. However, a police force which only serves the authority and protects the autonomy agreement is not acceptable to Hamas, said Hammameh. So far, he added, the police have acted well.

D-Day today for one UTJ Knesset seat

SARAH HONG

AGUDAT Yisrael's Council of Tora Sages is due to convene this afternoon to decide which of the party's MKs - Avraham Shapira or Menachem Porush - will vacate his Knesset seat on June 21.

The Sages are likely to cast lots to decide the thorny question, which arises from a rotation agreement made on the eve of the 1992 elections.

The agreement was born out of Aguda's decision to form an electoral bloc - United Tora Judaism - with Degel Hatorah and Poalei Aguda. The agreement stipulated that should less than five MKs be elected on the UTJ ticket, two Aguda MKs would resign after two years to make way for Degel and Poalei Aguda candidates on the list.

When only four UTJ MKs were elected, it was clear that the number three on the UTJ list, Aguda's MK Shmuel Halpert, would resign in favor of Degel's Moshe Gafni. Poalei Aguda's Avraham Verdiger would enter the Knesset upon the resignation of either Shapira or Porush. But neither Shapira nor Porush wants to be the one to step down.

Shapira says he is number-one on the UTJ list and represents Aguda's largest faction - the Gur Hassidim. Porush argues that he is Aguda's most veteran and active MK.

Peres: More autonomy, or intifada resumes

DAN IZENBERG

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres warned that the intifada would resume unless the government agrees to extend autonomy to the rest of Judea and Samaria in stage two of the autonomy agreement.

During a Labor Knesset faction meeting, Peres clashed with several MKs over whether to proceed with stage two of autonomy, as set out in the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles.

The faction agreed to meet in two weeks to discuss the issue at length.

"It is better to apply some of the autonomy on [all of] the territory than all of the autonomy on some of the territory," a faction spokesman who attended the closed meeting quoted Peres as telling the MKs.

Gaza police ban public political statements without a permit

JON IMMANUEL

GAZA police yesterday banned the reading of political statements in public places, including mosques, without a police permit.

Gaza sources said the decision was made public by the northern Gaza command. It was apparently prompted by a hostile leaflet against security chief Gen. Nasser Yusef which was read in mosques last weekend, but could include anti-Israel statements as well.

Relations between Hamas and the police chief have been deteriorating since the murder of two alleged collaborators two weeks ago.

In an attempt to mend damaged relations with the police, a semi-official leaflet by some unidentified Hamas leaders said its armed wing, Izzadin Kassam, would briefly stop killing collaborators to let the police deal with them.

In response Yusef issued his own statement calling Izzadin Kassam "killers" and "gangs" and said he would spare no effort to catch them. He called the alleged collaborators "our people" and made clear that the police were not going after them but after their attackers.

That statement stung Hamas which thought it had been reasonable. It replied with another of its own on Saturday calling Yusef "a protector of collaborators" and broadcast it in mosques in Gaza.

Israel has warned the police to take charge of the situation in Gaza before Hamas fills the vacuum.

Yusef, as head of the security forces, is also the superior of Jibril Rajoub and Mohammed Dahlan who head the "preventive security apparatus."

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SIMON COHEN

The bereaved family

Daughter and son-in law Daniela and Emilio Bruns
Sister Mazal Zadok
Son and daughter-in-law Rony and Malca Cohen
Granddaughters Tali and Michal Cohen

The funeral will be held today, Tuesday, June 7, 1994, at 2 p.m. at Savyon Cemetery.

Shiva at the Cohen family residence, Mevo'ot 84, Savyon.

Namir's main goal: Lower jobless rate

JUDY SIEGEL

THE main aim of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry is to reduce unemployment, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir told the Knesset yesterday in an annual report on the ministry's activities.

The ministry is therefore doing its best to exploit the employment potential of all job-seekers, while offering short-term make-work solutions, such as programs initiated with the Jewish National Fund and Antiquities Authority.

Ministry efforts to replace the tens of thousands of workers from the areas have met with mixed results. Between 20,000 and 25,000 Israelis began working in the building trades, which constituted a major success, Namir said.

Ministry programs to train Israelis in construction attracted over 4,400 workers.

There had been considerably less success in attracting Israelis to work in agriculture, however. While some 3,500 workers had taken farm jobs, nearly 3,000 others had refused them, despite losing unemployment benefits as a result.

Namir said it was clear the efforts the government had made to improve infrastructure and to encourage investment would result in the creation of many jobs in the long term.

ADAPTING technology used for night vision in the Israel Defense Forces, Israelis have developed a thermal-imaging camera that - hung a meter above the patient - confirms proper flow through coronary bypass grafts inside the heart.

The system, said to be the first of its kind in the world, was invented by Opgal Medical in Karmiel, and developed and tested in conjunction with the cardiothoracic surgery department at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Karem.

Called IVA (intraoperative vascular angiography) 2000, it includes a videocassette recorder that can play back the entire operation.

Until now, said Prof. Gideon Merin, head of cardiothoracic surgery, a surgeon could use only his experience and intuition to know whether blood flow through a graft was normal.

Some 4,000 bypass operations are carried out in Israel each year to circumvent clogged coronary arteries with veins or arteries taken from the patient's leg.

The IDF-Rafael camera had to be adapted to pick up small variations of temperature - less than one degree Centigrade - while remaining close to the patient, but without touching him or using any dangerous x-rays or even ultrasound, explained Dr. Menahem Zucker, who developed the system for Opgal Medical.

Reporters donned surgical gowns, caps and masks yesterday to watch open-heart surgery performed on a 50-year-old man, carried out using the thermal imaging camera.

After connecting one end of a piece of leg vein inside the heart, Merin injected saline (salt) solution that is just two or three degrees colder than the rest of the body.

The solution showed up in black on the screen opposite Merin's head; he could see that it flowed perfectly through the vessel and then attached the other end.

Zucker, an electrical engineer, said the system has been used to perform 200 bypass grafts in Israel; it has also begun testing in the US and is on the way to Italy, Spain and England.

He expects that every cardiothoracic surgery unit in Israel will purchase at least one and that it will become standard equipment around the world in three or four years.

The existing model costs \$200,000, but the price is expected to drop as demand increases.

The patented system, Zucker added, took two years to develop and will be applicable in other types of surgery, such as that involving peripheral blood vessels in the neck, arms and legs, and even in gynecological operations.



Doctors at Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Karem, yesterday, demonstrate a new device that confirms whether blood is flowing properly to the heart following cardiac bypass surgery.

Unemployment rate of immigrants at 14%

JOSE ROSENFELD

IMMIGRANT unemployment was nearly double the national average at 14 percent during the first quarter of the year, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Immigrants registered significantly higher participation rates in the work force than natives. While 55% of work-age immigrants participated in the work force, only 33.4% of the general work-age population did so.

Men's participation rates totaled 65% compared to 63.2% for the general population, while women's rates reached 47% compared to 43.2%.

The bureau also reported that the longer immigrants live here, the higher their participation rates. Only 48% of work-age immigrants that arrived last year participated in the work force, while 54% of those that preceded them by a year were working. About 56% of those who immigrated in 1991 and 59% of 1990 immigrants were working.

Male unemployment reached 9% in the first quarter, while female unemployment totaled 20%.

By comparison, male unemployment in the general population reached 6.3% and unemployment among women was 10.9%.

The longer the immigrants stay in the country the lower their unemployment rate. While 21% of those who emigrated last year were unemployed, only 12% of those that arrived in 1990 were unemployed.

Immigrants made up 10% of the employed work force, while they constituted 20% of the jobless.

During the first quarter, 23% of immigrants worked in scientific, academic or other free professions, 29% were employed as skilled workers, 25% as service workers and 10% as unskilled workers.

A third of working immigrants were employed in industry, 20% in public and community services, 14% in trade, food and hotel services, 11% in personal services and 7% in construction.

Public urged to wash fruit, vegetables

JUDY SIEGEL

VEGETABLES and fruits grown close to the ground near sewage water, as is common in the territories, are a source of microbes that cause gastrointestinal diseases.

The Health Ministry advised the public yesterday to wash all fruits and vegetables with soap and water, and especially those that may come from the territories.

The degree of danger depends on the type of irrigation. Produce grown with overhead dripping is least dangerous to health. Fruits and vegetables grown with open channels of water are more likely to be affected by sewage and are the most dangerous. Lettuce, cabbage, tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots and parsley are more susceptible than fruits that grow on trees, the ministry said.

The pathogens usually do not penetrate the fruit or vegetable unless there is a cut, says Dr. Brian Cousin, head of the ministry's food services division. Thus washing produce with whole skins removes these bacteria and other pathogens. Keeping them refrigerated prevents the growth of pathogens that may have remained after washing.

Ministry grants NIS 750,000 to expand Kiryat Shmona airstrip

DAVID RUDGE

KIRYAT Shmona's small airstrip for light planes is to be expanded and improved with the aid of a NIS 750,000 grant from the Transport Ministry, the municipality spokesman announced yesterday.

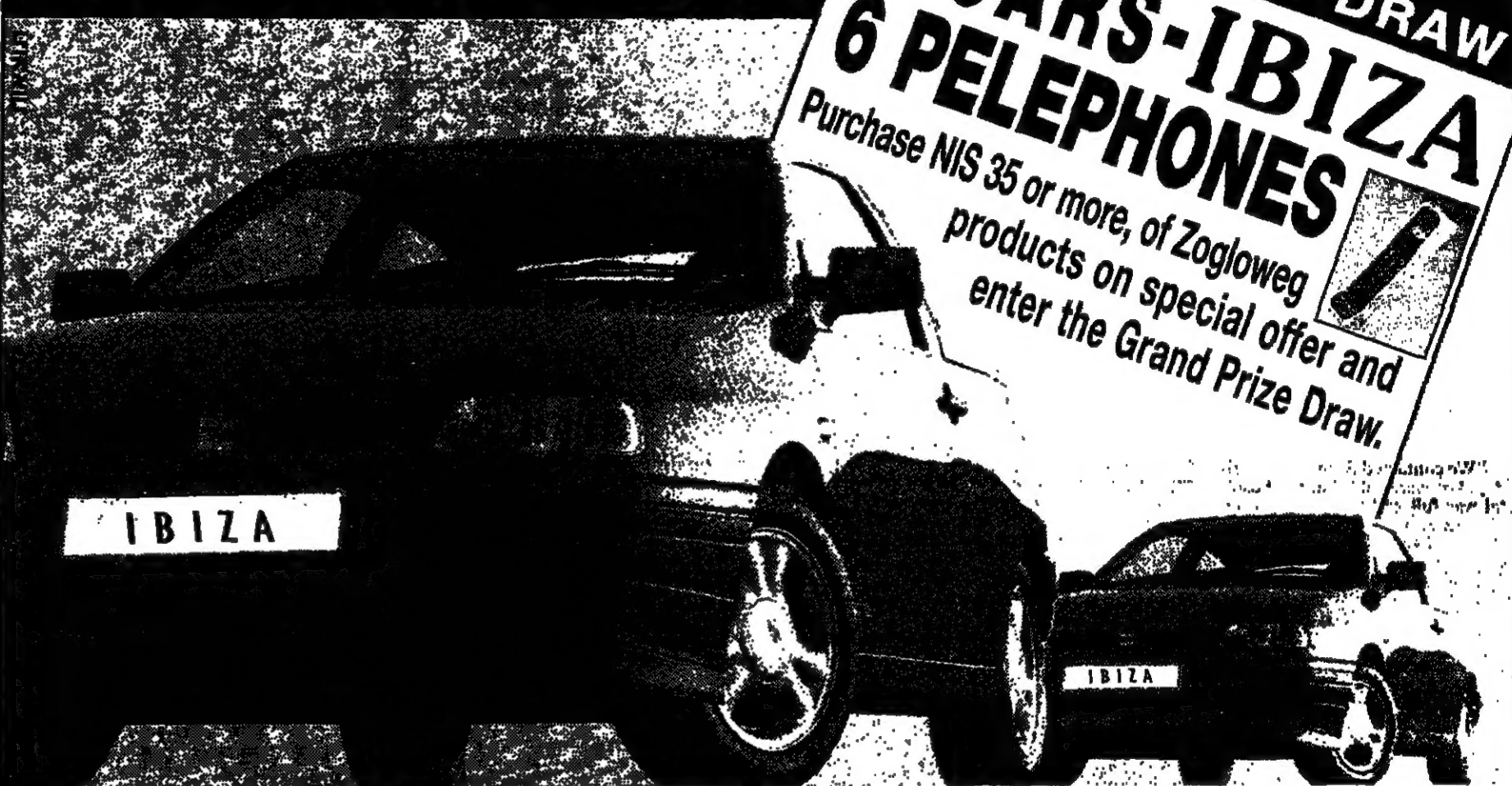
He said the money would be used to extend the existing runway and construct a second strip, as well as a modern terminal and shops.

The announcement was made by Hillel Rozensky, coordinator of projects for the Transport Ministry, in a meeting with Mayor Prosper Azran and city hall officials.

Arkia has been running flights from Kiryat Shmona to Tel Aviv for two years but services have been limited by the poor facilities. Azran said development of the airport had been delayed for 10 years because of "rescue" archaeological excavations at the site and bureaucratic wrangles, but now the project would be able to go ahead as originally planned.

He stressed that the municipality itself would be responsible for the running and management of the airport, which would help keep costs of flights and services to reasonable levels.

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Workers search for clues around the wreckage of a Russian-built Tupolev-154 Chinese airliner which crashed near Xian killing all 160 people on board.

China's worst plane crash kills 160

DAVID SCHLESINGER

BEIJING

A Chinese airliner on a domestic flight from the tourist centre of Xian crashed yesterday killing all 160 people on board in the country's worst reported air accident, the Xinhua news agency said.

The Russian-built Tupolev-154 with a crew of 14 and 146 passengers smashed into a field less than 10 minutes after takeoff on China Northwest Airlines Flight 2303 to the southern city of Guangzhou.

Officials at Xian's Emergency Rescue Centre said one person had been found alive and sent to hospital in critical condition but later died.

State television showed pictures of the aircraft's debris scattered widely. The main cabin looked largely intact but the rest of the plane was shattered.

"I heard a large explosion and ran outside," said a government worker in Mingdu township, about 30 km southwest of Xian, where

the plane went down.

"My colleagues said they saw parts of the plane falling from the sky," she said.

Her account, and the television pictures of the widespread wreckage, matched reports the plane or one of its engines had exploded in the air. Others said the plane crashed while trying to make an emergency landing in a rain-soaked field.

Xinhua said the cause of the crash was under investigation and that Vice Premier Zou Jiahua had flown to the scene.

It said the passengers included three people from Hong Kong, one from Taiwan and nine from other countries.

It did not identify them, but diplomats said they had been told there were two US citizens,

six Italians and one Swiss. No names were available.

A Xian tourist agency said among the Italian dead were a family of four, including a 10-year-old girl and a nine-year-old boy.

The previous highest toll was in November 1992, when all 141 people on board a China Southern Airlines Boeing 737 were killed when it slammed into a hill coming in to land at the scenic tourist city of Guilin.

Xian, the central China site of yesterday's crash, which is 1,000 km from Beijing, is the location of the famous army of terracotta tomb warriors dating from 210 BC, a prime tourist attraction.

It was the first Chinese crash since last November, when 12 people were killed as a China Northern Airlines MD-82 crashlanded near the western city of Urumqi.

Egyptian militants on trial for attempt to blow up minister

CAIRO (Reuters) - A group of Moslem militants, shouting defiance, went on trial yesterday in an Egyptian military court on charges of trying to blow up Interior Minister Hassan al-Alfi last year.

"Where is the law you are judging us by? God is our only judge. We know that the final verdict will be decided by the interior minister," said one of the 14 defendants behind bars.

Three others are on the run and are being tried in absentia.

Defending lawyers complained to presiding judge Wagdi al-Laithi they had not seen any of the indictment papers.

The judge read the charges against the 17 defendants and adjourned the case until June 12. If convicted, the men could face the death penalty.

Alfi escaped death in central Cairo on August 18 last year when a bomb exploded just before his motorcade passed. The explosion killed two militants and three civilians.

The men sang Islamic songs and shouted anti-government slogans from behind barred cages. Some of them lifted their garments to show what they said were signs of torture.

"It's a good thing we are still in our right minds. We always will be, no matter what those despots do to us," shouted Mohammed Rashad Hegazy.

Many of the men were visibly moved after the eight-year-old son of one of their co-defendants burst into tears when he saw his father behind bars.

N. Yemen declares ceasefire until South violates it

SANAA (Reuters) - The Yemeni government in the northern capital Sanaa said its troops would observe a ceasefire in the civil war with southern foes from midnight yesterday.

The ceasefire would last until the other side violated it.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Salem Basendwa, speaking during a day of heavy shelling on the southerners' stronghold of Aden, told reporters:

"We have informed the secretary-general of the United Nations and the secretary-general of the Arab League that a ceasefire will start from midnight tonight," he said.

"The ceasefire will last until the other side ceases to abide by it. Then I don't think it will be possible for us to stop our people," he said.

The UN Security Council last Wednesday called for a ceasefire. The six Arab nation Gulf Cooperation Council warned on Sunday of unspecified measures if the fighting continued.

Witnesses yesterday said shells crashed around Aden's airport and in the sea, disrupting maritime traffic though southern warplanes continued to roar off on constant sorties against the northerners. Some shells slammed into residential areas.

A southern military statement reported heavy fighting in Shabwa province, hundreds of km east of Aden. The communique, which could not be confirmed, said 65 northern soldiers were killed and 200 wounded.

Witnesses in Aden reported southern positions loosing off heavy anti-aircraft fire yesterday afternoon. They said one incoming missile fell into the sea near the

city's port. Black smoke drifted from Aden's refinery, hit twice on Sunday by what the south said were northern air raids. New checkpoints sprang up in Aden's streets and traffic was thin.

Many of the 350,000 residents queued for bread, water and petrol for the first time since the civil war started on May 4.

Armed civilians and soldiers patrolled streets in northern suburbs. The atmosphere was tense but there was little panic.

The military situation yesterday in villages north of Aden was not clear although the fighting had caused many casualties.

"There has been random shelling on all the villages north of us," said surgeon Nabil Obadi. "A lot of civilians have been injured."

One child, five-year-old Fatima Abdul-Qader lay motionless on a hospital bed in Aden, her head covered by bloodstained bandages.

Imdad Ali, a nine-year-old girl who suffered a head wound in a nearby village, moaned that she wanted her mother.

Before the northern ceasefire statement, the International Committee of the Red Cross was trying to organise an evacuation of foreigners to Djibouti.

As shells landed near ships, 100 Somali refugees gathered at Aden port trying to leave, uncertain whether Djibouti would accept them and worried about returning to their own land of strife.

The rival Yemeni forces went to war on May 4 after a long dispute between their leaders following the union of the former North and South Yemen in 1990. South Yemen on May 21 announced it was seceding from the union.

Peacekeeping plan on track in Abkhazia

TBILISI (Reuters) - Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said yesterday that the deployment of CIS peace-keeping forces in rebel Abkhazia province would go ahead despite opposition from the upper house of Russia's parliament.

In a weekly address, broadcast by Georgian radio, Shevardnadze said the planned trilateral of ex-Soviet peacekeeping forces to the region had been confirmed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in a recent telephone conversation.

"The details are being clarified now," Shevardnadze said. "Events will develop according to plan. At least, that is what Mr Yeltsin confirmed... The failure of this peace mission if it happened would seriously undermine the CIS's reputation as a major inter-regional organization."

Russia brokered a deal last month aimed at ending bloody hostilities between Georgia and Abkhaz separatists, who humiliated the Tbilisi government last year by driving its troops out of their Black Sea region.

The deal provided for a peace-keeping contingent from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to be brought into the area.

A CIS coordinator has been shuttling between the former Soviet republics to finalise the deal.

But it was obvious the first units would be Russian. Army officers have said troops were ready to move into the area in three to five days.

Shevardnadze said failure to implement the deal would be unacceptable for all sides and in particular a "serious blow" to Russia. "Peacekeeping, particularly in Abkhazia, answers Russian national interests. I have in mind the stability of the expanses of southern Russia," Shevardnadze said. "At the same time, this peace mission will reaffirm Russia's international standing."

"Therefore, a successful completion of this mission, while being primarily in the interests of the Georgians and the Abkhaz, and in the interests of Georgia, answers, at the same time, the interests of all CIS countries and of Russia above all."

Deputies in Russia's upper house of parliament, the Federation Council, disagree. Last week they failed by one vote to grant Yeltsin's request to dispatch peace-keeping troops to Abkhazia.

Two killed, seven wounded in school party gunfight

SAN MARINO, Calif. (AP) - A party celebrating the end of the school year turned tragic yesterday when at least two people opened fire in the crowded backyard of a suburban home. Seven teenagers were killed and seven other youngsters were wounded.

The attackers apparently had an argument at the party, left and returned around 1 a.m. to retaliate, Los Angeles County sheriff's detectives said.

Such shootings are almost never heard of in the wealthy suburb of 13,000, which has some of the state's most exclusive homes and is home of the Huntington Library.

The party, advertised by fliers in the area, was at the home of a high school student celebrating the end of the school year.

Guests were charged \$2 to attend. The party featured a disc jockey but no alcohol, investigators said. Party goers ranged in age from teens to about 21.

The student's parents were home at the time and there was no indication the party had become rowdy or loud prior to the attack, detectives said.

At least two of up to 12 youths who returned to the party opened fire on about 100 guests with semi-automatic handguns, authorities said. They fled in three cars.

CLIFF Jackson shares his year of birth, his small-town Arkansas roots and an Oxford education with Bill Clinton.

That old school tie may bind too tightly to suit Clinton supporters. They see Jackson's hand in the campaign-year draft-dodging controversy and in the sexual harassment civil suit filed against the president by Paula Corbin Jones.

Jackson says he dislikes being called Clinton's archenemy and winced when a recent *Newsweek* magazine story labeled him "relentlessly odious." But he did chuckle about other stories that have dubbed him Clinton's Captain Ahab or Lex Luther.

"I never intended to be his enemy," Jackson says. "I'm not bitter. I'm not a rabid, right-wing radical. Contrary to what you hear, I don't spend my time obsessing over my past or his."

For the last two years, however, Jackson has been a point man for anti-Clintonites, the answering machine in his home law office often filling with dozens of callers wanting to share supposed dirt.

Unlike other foes of the president, Jackson appears driven more by the personal, not the political.

So what makes Cliff Jackson continue to stalk his old classmate, flinging harpoons? Is he jealous of the president's success? Did Clinton once steal a girlfriend from

him? Didn't Clinton pass Jackson the ball enough when they were Oxford basketball teammates?

No, no, no, Jackson insists. Instead, he says, he feels a duty to the nation.

"This is about abuse of the public trust. It's about compromising of the principle until there's no principle left to compromise," he says. "I think it's not good for the presidency for responsibility and accountability to be avoided."

Discussing himself and Clinton for more than an hour over coffee one evening, Jackson dismisses "all the psychoanalyzing about why I am doing what I'm doing now."

"I am happy with my life," he says, after repeatedly rebutting suggestions of personal motives.

But a combination of factors emerges from the lengthy conversation, with tears welling at times in Jackson's eyes as he discusses his personal convictions.

There are his politics, which tend to be conservative and Republican; his religious upbringing in the Assembly of God Church; and a longstanding feeling that Clinton once used him in an effort to avoid the draft.

At times, Jackson praises Clinton's abilities and fondly recounts

conversations, letters and even their winning teamwork in intramural basketball. But he also portrays Clinton as superficial, deceitful and telling people what they wanted to hear, while surrounding himself with people who do the same for him.

"We're fundamentally different," Jackson concludes. They "dated some girls who were friends" in college, but there was no romantic rivalry, says Jackson, married with two daughters.

Common roots drew the two together at Oxford - where Clinton, from Hope, was a Rhodes scholar and Jackson, from Antioch, was a Fulbright scholar - and they kept in touch in the first years after they returned to Arkansas.

Then, Clinton began realizing his college-day dreams of political success, while Jackson's ended after he lost a run for local prosecutor in 1976. That year, Clinton was elected attorney general in his first statewide election.

Jackson built a prosperous law practice. He helped win a \$17.5 million sexual discrimination lawsuit against Texaco (which was appealed and must be re-tried), and he also turned up as an Assemblies of God national mediator when evangelist Jimmy Swaggart was

disciplined for confessed sins.

Jackson says that after his electoral defeat, he decided to pursue his political interests and populist beliefs through activism on specific issues.

In 1990, he helped form a political action group called Alliance for a Rebirth of an Independent American Spirit, which ran anti-Clinton ads in New Hampshire before the Democratic primary in 1992.

Then, it started getting personal.

Jackson released letters and other information indicating that he used his Republican influence during Vietnam to gain Clinton an ROTC deferment - which Clinton then discarded.

Jackson called that "a betrayal" of him by Clinton. He also knew that when the story broke, "I had crossed the Rubicon. I knew Clinton was going to take it very personally."

Clinton's campaign survived the draft controversy, as it had the claims of a years-long, illicit affair by Jennifer Flowers, which Jackson makes a point of saying he had nothing to do with.

But Jackson was contacted last year about helping some Arkansas state troopers make public their allegations that they helped arrange and provide cover for the then-governor's sexual escapades. (AP)

Chinese jetliner hijacked to Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) - A man armed with a knife hijacked a Chinese jetliner carrying 139 people on a domestic flight yesterday and forced it to land in Taiwan, the military reported.

It was the second Chinese airliner hijacked to Taiwan this year, and the 12th since April 1993. The incidents have deeply embarrassed Beijing and hurt attempts to build relations with the rival Nationalist government on Taiwan.

The Boeing 737 belonging to China's Southern Airlines was intercepted by two Taiwanese F-5 jet fighters and landed at Taipei International Airport at 7:56 p.m., the military said.

The plane returned to China at 11:05 p.m. with all 131 passengers and eight crew members. The hijacker was detained and will face air piracy charges, police said.

The official Central News Agency identified him as Zou Weiqiang, 35, a driver from Guangdong province. It said Zou claimed he has a heart disease and commandeered the airliner because he did not want to live in poverty in China. He was quoted as saying he earned less than \$10 a month.

The recent series of hijackings prompted China in December to announce a \$35 million program of air-safety improvements.

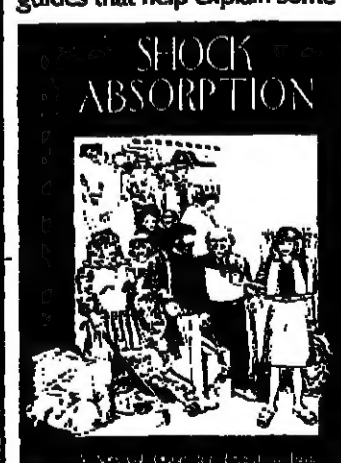
All the hijackings so far have ended peacefully, with the planes allowed to return to China as soon as the hijackers have been tried by Taiwanese courts.

To discourage hijackings, the two sides have discussed possibly sending hijackers back to China, but the talks have bogged down over questions of jurisdiction.

Fifteen Chinese have hijacked Chinese planes to Taiwan in 11 incidents so far. Eleven of them have been sentenced to prison jail terms ranging from 6 to 13 years. The rest await trial.

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Another Beilin folly

DEPUTY Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin's salvo against the new Italian government, accompanied by a threat to reassess Israel's relations with Rome, is yet another sensation-seeking pronouncement by a government official. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin once appropriately branded a petty bureaucrat. Beilin's reported threat to temporarily recall Israel's ambassador and other ridiculous noises he made about "taking action" against Silvio Berlusconi's government are as senseless as they are harmful.

His utterances, contradicting what Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has said about Israel's relationship with Italy, betray not only disarray in the Foreign Ministry. They reaffirm that Beilin is one of those unreconstructed true believers of the left who still consider any party calling itself "socialist" beyond reproach, while automatically condemning anything on the right as "fascist."

The purported reason for Beilin's ire is the presence in the Italian cabinet of three neo-fascists (not five, as he had it). As members of the Italian Social Movement (MSI), which is part of the National Alliance party led by Gianfranco Fini, they represent a highly unattractive faction in Italian politics. Fini himself has made obnoxious remarks about Benito Mussolini's greatness. Worse, he has said freedom is not always an essential value and that Italian fascism in the 1930s was not bad until it adopted racist doctrines. European Commission president Jacques Delors, an avowed socialist, referred to the MSI ministers as a "hideous beast" which should be watched with "worried vigilance."

But both Beilin and Delors would have been far more persuasive had they been con-

sistent in their condemnation of other parties, far more powerful than Fini's faction, which espouses non-democratic causes. When the Italian Communist party openly supported the most extreme factions of the PLO, embraced "Zionism-equals-racism," or arranged the publication of anti-Israel school texts, they were thunderously silent.

And it is a sure bet that had the Party of the Democratic Left - the reincarnation of the Communist Party - won the general election, as it narrowly did the municipal election in Rome, neither Beilin nor any other critic of the current government would have carped about its alliance with the unregenerate Stalinist, virulently anti-Israel faction of the old Communist Party.

Fini himself obviously harbors some idiotic notions about Mussolini, but no more idiotic than the delusions nurtured by Beilin and others about the benignity of fascist totalitarianism like Hafez Assad. Nor can Fini be accused of antisemitism. In fact, during the mayoral elections he visited the Ardeatine Caves to pay tribute to the hundreds of Jews and other anti-fascists who were executed there by the Nazis during the war.

Berlusconi himself was the only political leader who delayed his vote in the general election so that it would not fall on Pessah, making the gesture a show of solidarity with the Jewish community. He is adamant about demanding the extradition of Nazi criminal Erich Priebke from Argentina. His government may indeed be - as Italian foreign minister Antonio Martino says - the most pro-Israel ever. To condemn it because of three unattractive minor ministers is an unprecedented display of political irresponsibility.

History's leaps

ONE of the most touching sights of the D-Day anniversary celebrations was undoubtedly what the French dubbed *les papy sauteurs* - the jumping grandfathers. Veteran paratroopers, aged up to 83 and defying all efforts to halt the event out of concern for their safety, replayed their historic leap of 50 years ago into occupied France. It was a demonstration of courage undiminished by the passing of the years and a timely reminder for the enthralled grandchildren of all veterans of the enormity of the effort to free Europe from the dark forces of Nazism.

In 1944, the paratroopers who spearheaded the invasion could not have dreamed of the world they would jump into 50 years later. That was a time before some of the most familiar images of today - before plastics, before space travel, before the rise and fall of the communist bloc, before television, supermarkets, computers, mass communications.

Much less could they have dreamed that the destroyed continent they were coming to save would become a prosperous, democratic union of nations - including, as an economically powerful united state, the hated Germany that the eastern and western allies were then about to dismember. Amid the carping and criticism of modern woes, it is all too often forgotten what sort of world it might

have been had the enormous sacrifices of the Russian, American, British, and other allies been in vain.

A world divided between Nazi Germans and imperial Japanese would have been one no George Orwell could have imagined - a global slave camp catering to the whims of a handful of dictators to whom life, history, and culture meant nothing. The fate meted out so tragically early to six million Jews awaited untold millions of Slavs, blacks, Christians, Chinese, or whatever other category of inferior species popped into Hitler's satanic mind. It was because the danger was so great and the forces of evil so powerful that the price was so high. The D-Day celebrations are a tiny memorial to those who died that the rest of us might live in freedom, and a tribute of gratitude to those who survived.

One of the most depressing lessons of history is that some people just will not learn any lessons from history. Many who remember the 50th anniversary celebrations in 1968 for the end of World War I must be somewhat startled to find themselves so quickly viewing those for the end of World War II. It must be hoped that these memorials will shock everyone into greater vigilance, so that the grandchildren of *les papy sauteurs* will avoid a rerun of history in their own lifetimes.



Hard logic vs. fairy tales

THE country has been brainwashed," cries Moshe Zak ("PLO insurance policy," *The Jerusalem Post*, June 2). "One bright summer's day, so the story goes, Israel got up and embarked on a war of conquest, grabbing land that belonged to the Palestinians!"

I have been involved in putting the case for Israel for many years, and I can testify that whatever Arab propaganda may allege, Zak's description of the prevailing Israeli attitude and the mood of the country is a figment of his imagination.

To cite only one example: In the brief articles on public affairs published by the *Helo Israel* tourist weekly on the initiative of the Government Information Center, the "occupied" or "administered" territories are always referred to as "having come under Israeli rule in 1967 in self-defense against Arab aggression."

In justifying his peace policy, Prime Minister Rabin never uses language remotely resembling Zak's picture of "brainwashed" Israeli public opinion. His basic argument, which he repeats over and over again, is that we should not rule over a million and a half Arabs who don't want us; that we cannot completely suppress their violent resistance by force; and that the only solution is an compromise between the two nations that live in this country and will continue to live in it.

Zak does not mention this argument - let alone refute it. Instead, he cites history to give us the comfortable feeling that we are and always have been irreproachably righteous, and that we can, with a clear conscience, continue to rule the Arab population of the territories, whatever they may think or do.

All Israelis except for a tiny fringe have no doubt that we were perfectly justified in 1967 in reacting as we did to Egypt's open threats and, even more, to the Jordanian invasion. Moreover, it was only when we had territory to exchange that the Ar-

MISHA LOUVISH

abs - some earlier and some later - offered to make peace with Israel as the only way to get back what they had lost.

The historical justification, however, doesn't change today's situation. Menachem Begin understood this in 1977. He would have had no difficulty in showing

History may justify holding onto all of Eretz Yisrael, but only compromise will bring peace with the Palestinians

that Egypt was entirely responsible for the outbreak of war in 1967, and that Israel had the moral right to hold onto the Sinai Peninsula, which had been used, for the fourth time, as a base for aggression.

But he understood that the problem wasn't how to prove we were justified, but how to achieve peace with Egypt - possible only if we acquiesced in Egypt's refusal to admit its guilt and accepted its claim, justified or not, to what it regarded as its own territory.

WE ARE faced with a similar situation today. The million and a half people in the areas that came under our rule in the course of self-defense against Arab aggression in 1967 regard themselves as part of a nation they call "Palestinian."

Perhaps the term is illogical; so, for that matter is the term "American." How many people know who Amerigo Vespucci was, the man who gave his name to the New World?

What do we gain by just calling them "Arabs"? The point is that they aren't Jews, and don't want to be a part of the Jewish National Home.

After the establishment of the PLO in 1964, the Palestinians proclaimed the organization to be their only legitimate representative. They must be regarded as responsible, therefore, for its genocidal National Covenant.

In his letter to Prime Minister Rabin on September 8 last year, however, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, in effect, tore up the covenant.

The very act of negotiating with Israel, the recognition of its right to exist, the proclamation of "a new epoch of peaceful co-existence" and the renunciation of "the use of terrorism and other acts of violence" violated the most fundamental clauses of the covenant. To remove all doubt, the PLO affirmed that any incompatible articles of the covenant were no longer valid. Ratification by the PLO National Council is a mere formality.

After a generation of dedication to all-out war, the Palestinians have agreed, in principle, to peace with Israel.

Peace means agreement, however, not merely submission to the superior force. We can get agreement with the Palestinians only if we give them at least part of what they want: the right to govern themselves. This means not only control of education, health and social services, but the maintenance of law and order by their own police, and not by what they regard as a foreign occupation force.

That is the logic behind the peace process the prime minister and his government are conducting. The fanciful story which Moshe Zak says the country has been "brainwashed" into accepting has nothing to do with it.

The writer was on the staff of the Government Press Office and edited the *Foreign Ministry's annual Facts about Israel* for many years.

A step ahead

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

MK Naomi Chazan came up with a "scoop" at the Hebrew University's Truman Institute last week. The occasion was a conference called "The PLO and Israel: From Armed Conflict to Political Settlement, 1964-1994." Chazan arrived straight from the airport, having just returned from Morocco, where she had taken part in a conference of women from the whole Mediterranean region, held in Marrakesh.

The scoop: Israeli and Palestinian participants had acted together as mediators between their embattled Turkish and Greek counterparts.

Chazan's lecture was on "The Role of Women and Female Leadership in the Intifada and the Peace Process." Much of it focused on the institutionalization of relations between women from the Israeli peace movements and Palestinian women from the territories.

What Chazan described was a reality which has been crystal-clear to anyone who has followed these relations over the last decade. Women have been much more persistent and consistent than their male counterparts in finding points of convergence to

Palestinian and Israeli women have played a crucial role in helping peace along

work on. As a result, "women have systematically been one step ahead of the political processes."

This phenomenon has already been analyzed. Some attribute it to feminine intuition, others to the fact that the personalities involved - women like Chazan herself, Prof. Galia Golan and MK Yael Dayan on the Israeli side, and Dr. Hanan Ashrawi and Zuhaira Kamal on the Palestinian side - are all rather extraordinary in their devotion to the cause of peace.

I am inclined to see the cause elsewhere. Though the Palestinian women have played a more active and "central role" in the "actual peace process" than their Israeli counterparts, no woman has actually been involved in the very difficult negotiating process itself.

If women had had to tackle the very complicated political, security and economic problems involved in working out a peace settlement, it is doubtful that they would have made any smoother or more rapid progress than the men involved.

WHERE THE role of women has been crucial is in preparing the ground for the opening of political talks between Israel and the PLO.

The Oslo Agreement was preceded by close to 20 years of unofficial meetings between Israeli and Palestinian personalities, in which the two sides familiarized themselves with each other's positions. This process, in which women have played an important role (especially over the last 10 years), generated a good deal of mutual sympathy. This acted as a lubricant for the official talks that followed.

It is perhaps indicative of the nature of women's role in the peace process that even though Hanan Ashrawi initiated the contact in Oslo between Prof. Yair Hirschfeld and Dr. Ron Pundik and PLO representatives in November 1992, Ashrawi herself had no idea of what she had actually achieved.

She found out about the Oslo agreement together with the rest of us - toward the end of August 1993.

If the role of women in the peace process has been subsidiary, their role in the intifada - which, psychologically speaking, was a prerequisite for the opening of talks later on - was often grim.

I am not referring to the heroic role of women in the forefront of demonstrations held on both sides, but to a point mentioned at the Truman Institute conference by Gaza psychiatrist Dr. Eyal al-Sarraj, almost as an afterthought.

According to Sarraj, Palestinian women suffered a good deal of physical violence from their frustrated menfolk after the men were released from Israeli detention camps.

Violence against Israeli women also increased in the same period - and I don't mean violence at the hands of Palestinians.

Violence between peoples invariably spills over into their respective societies. Which might offer another explanation of why women often seem to have a greater vested interest in peace than men.

It is a pity that, in our chauvinistic society, they aren't in a better position to help attain it.

The writer is editor of the *Labour movement monthly, Spectrum*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SIGN OF CONTEMPT

Sir, - It is perhaps a sign of utter contempt for the Israeli nation and Jews around the world that Shimon Peres, foreign minister of Israel, can accept Arafat's explanation of jihad. Everyone is laughing at the Israeli foreign minister - laughing because the evidence is so obvious that jihad means holy war against the Jews. Mr. Peres, unfortunately for him, has a problem because the speech of Arafat in the mosque at Johannesburg was reported and recorded.

How can Mr. Rabin, the head of the government, keep Peres as foreign minister? Peres considers Rabin as the same fool as he considers the individual Israeli, buying any explanation from Arafat. How can he permit Peres to go around from country to country acting as a shill to raise money for Arafat? Arafat is sure to use this money to begin a war chest for his jihad. The Palestinian police are all waiting for the arms that they will use in two years' time for their war against Israel and the Jews. Peres will bear all the responsibility.

TOBY WILLIG

Jerusalem.

CHELM

Sir, - We must be living in the world of Chelm. First the comptroller's report lambasts the Housing Ministry as being the most inept, inefficient and possibly the most corrupt of any government agency. Then the next day, the Housing Ministry announces that it is ready to go into the multi-billion dollar construction business. We can just imagine the size of the disaster that this will bring to the economy.

DR. CHAIM BEN-ELIEZER
Jerusalem.

FALSE HOPES

Sir, - The incongruity of Mr. Peres going ahead with the Oslo Peace Award ceremony, despite Arafat's call for "jihad to liberate Jerusalem," defies all logic. The prime minister's reaction to Arafat's now open betrayal of an agreement of peaceful coexistence, can only be described as deeply disturbing. What other proof does Israel need that Arafat means what he says?

Hoping and praying for peace is not enough. You must have a willing partner. Perhaps that day will come eventually. At present, all the signs are to the contrary.

The government of Israel must put a stop to this tragic farce. All attempts at appeasement of an intractable enemy have never worked in history. There certainly is no longer any reason to believe they will work now. Any further concessions on borders, including the Golan, will do nothing except endanger Israel's security.

SABINA CITRON,

Vice-President,

Canadian Holocaust Remembrance Association - Toronto

Thornhill, Ont.

PEACE FOR JERUSALEM

Sir, - In the context of modern Middle East negotiations, the ancient city of Jerusalem should become a separate state. Disarmed and non-belligerent, it should be ruled by a board of senior clerics representing the three great religions of Islam, Christianity and Judaism. Only then would Jerusalem become a truly Holy City and the City of Peace which its name implies.

A.C.J. MACONOCHE

Wadhurst, East Sussex.

DISGUSTING BEHAVIOR

Sir, - When a truck driver was shot and injured by terrorists and lying bleeding heavily on the ground, journalists from TV's New Channel 2 who happened to be nearby started photographing him in spite of his pleas to them not to do so because his wife might see it on TV and go into shock.

I think this is disgusting behavior on the part of these journalists who think a scoop is more important than decent behavior. In a democratic country, surely one has the right to expect privacy at such a moment.

NOMI KALISCH

Netanya.

DEFENSE IN DEPTH

Sir, - Defense in depth, the first principle of battle, rescued Russia from Napoleon and Hitler, just as two oceans protect the US. So why is the old warrior Rabin sacrificing the Golan like Begin gave up the Sinai? Did they want to be known to the world as "nice Jewish boys"?

The world never has and never will come to Israel's defense. The Arabs know this and will coordinate an attack on Israel at the earliest opportune moment.

The British escaped from Dunkirk back to England. Where will Israel go? To Cyprus? To the Greek Isles?

Had Israel heeded the martyred Rabbi Meir Kahane, the Arab problem would not exist and Israel would be secure rather than having its days numbered.

I no longer donated to Israel. I don't want the Arabs to enjoy my money.

R. SCHWARTZ

Gualala, California.

Peres's 'Shoa show'

STEVEN PLAUT

ACCORDING to Foreign Minister Peres's recently expressed theory of events during World War II, the Nazi Holocaust and the American dropping of atomic bombs on Japan constituted twin Holocausts. Which presumably means they were morally equivalent.

This kind of comparison has become fashionable in certain Western politically correct circles, and Peres's utterance wouldn't be the first time the government's thinking has been motivated by a passionate desire to conform to international political fashion.

But going beyond political fads, it is intriguing to try and see what led up to our foreign minister's "Shoa show."

If, in Peres's mind, the Nazi Holocaust is analogous to the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it follows that he views the Holocaust as an event that must have occurred in the course of an all-out conflict deliberately launched by the Jews.

They, like the Japanese, must have enslaved the better part of an entire continent, pillaging and tormenting its populations while systematically murdering millions.

The German actions, like the Americans', must have been taken to prevent much greater suffering and far larger numbers of victims.

If Peres persists in his analogy, the Nazi Holocaust must have been a moral imperative and absolutely justifiable. The bombing of Hiroshima brought an end to the war in the Pacific without necessitating the ground invasion of Japan. In such an invasion,

tens - perhaps hundreds - of thousands of Allied soldiers would have died. Shortly before the atomic bombings, 7,000 US soldiers were killed and 18,000 wounded taking a desolate island called Iwo Jima. Then 12,000 US soldiers were

killed and 35,000 wounded taking Okinawa - making that a battle on a par with Gettysburg.

On Okinawa, 100,000 Japanese were killed. (Okinawa was then held by the US as a militarily governed "occupied territory" for four decades, with never a hint of an intifada.)

All this is indisputable proof of how severe the carnage would have been on the Japanese main islands.

AN ESTIMATED 55 million people died in World War II. If the atomic bombs shortened that war by merely a week, the carnage they wrought was one of the greatest "bargains" of human history.

The atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki saved not only many thousands of Allied soldiers, but hundreds of thousands and probably millions of Japanese lives, civilians who would have

been killed in the Allied conquest of Japan. As such, the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki rank as one of the most moral, high-minded, humane and unambiguously justifiable acts in the history of mankind.

It is true that tens of thousands of Japanese died in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and that many of them were also "innocents." It is also true that the numbers killed in both cities is dwarfed by comparison with those killed by the Allies with conventional weapons in the bombings of Tokyo and Dresden, to name only the two most notorious examples in World War II.

In Dresden alone, over 135,000 Germans were killed, many doubtless "innocents."

If, in Peres's thinking, the 70,000-100,000 killed in Hiroshima justify ranking that event as a "Holocaust" morally equivalent to the destruction of European Jewry, I suggest that Peres have the courage of his convictions and add Dresden to his list. He would only be repeating what certain European circles have already been suggesting.

Better yet, why not swell the list of holocausts by adding Saddam Hussein's 200,000 Republican Guards - many of whom were doubtless "innocents" - mercilessly butchered by Allied weapons in the Gulf war?

Let's have some consistency, after all. The real question is how Peres, the government's No. 2 politician, can take such a position, 50 years after the Holocaust.

The writer teaches economics and business at the University of Haifa.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 1994

Committee approves sale of 51% of El Al to the public

JOSE ROSENFELD and news services

THE cabinet privatization committee yesterday approved the sale of 51 percent of El Al to the public by December and the issuance of a golden share to guarantee the country's vital interests, the Treasury reported.

The Transportation Ministry said the sale would take place after the once-ailing carrier is taken out of a 13-year-long receivership in October.

A board of directors will be named once the company is out of receivership.

Transportation Minister Yisrael Kassar opposed selling a controlling interest to a private investor to protect the airline's workers, who fear for their jobs.

"El Al is a national carrier and its shares should be sold to the public and not to an investor, who would be free to do as he pleased with the airline," said Kassar. In every privatization process, one must try not to harm the workers who contributed to the company's positive financial situation, he said.

The committee discussed the company's security costs - which

total some \$55 million a year, 80% of which is currently met by the government and which impose a heavy burden on the airline.

The committee said both Kassar and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat will decide during the privatization process how the security costs will be shared between the government and the airline.

Kassar said the state must retain a "golden share" in El Al to safeguard the national interest. In past years El Al kept air lanes to the country open when other airlines stopped flying the route.

Officials did not name the foreign markets on which El Al would offer shares, but industry analysts said New York was a strong possibility. A Transport Ministry spokesman said the government's privatization committee would decide at a later date how to dispose of the remaining 49% stake in the airline.

The cabinet committee meeting was attended by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Shohat, Kassar, Justice Minister David Liba'i, Attorney-General Michael Ben-



Kassar: State must retain a golden share in the airline to safeguard the national interest. (Efraim Kishitok)

Yair, Government Companies Authority director Yossi Nitzani and Transportation Ministry direc-

tor-general Doron Shorer.

El Al has yet to report its 1993 results. However a company official said the carrier had net profits last year of approximately \$10 million and revenues topping \$1 billion.

Last month Israel appointed two groups of foreign and local consulting and accounting firms to carry out separate valuations of the airline.

El Al currently operates an all-Boeing fleet of 22 jets and recently ordered a third \$150m. Boeing 747-400 jumbo jet for delivery next May.

El Al President Rafi Harlev said the airline is considering whether to buy Boeing's new 777 twin-jet, the competing MD-11 from McDonnell Douglas Corp. or the Airbus A340.

He said one of the reasons for the new order is to help EL AL expand its service into the rapidly growing Asian market.

Harlev predicted EL AL would get the right to fly over Jordan and Saudi Arabia within two to three years, cutting three hours from flights between Israel and East Asia.

Bill finalized guaranteeing pension for all workers

Post Business Staff

A BILL to ensure a pension for the more than 600,000 wage earners who do not currently have a comprehensive plan has been finalized by Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir.

The proposal will soon be presented to ministers, legal experts, the Histadrut and industrialists, after it was put together by a special ministry team appointed by Namir, which included ministry and National Insurance Institute staff.

It will then be presented to the government.

According to the bill, all workers aged 18 to 65, both self-employed and salaried, would be legally required to be included in a pension plan.

The proposal would also pay salaried employees who make 35

years' worth of payments 70 percent of their salaried income, in addition to their National Insurance Institute benefits.

Self-employed individuals would receive compensation based on how much they pay into the system. Since self-employed individuals' income can vary sharply from year to year, it was deemed inappropriate to have them pay a steady sum.

Pensionable income would include all taxable income, including car allowance, overtime, etc., which were not always included in the past.

Namir's proposal also suggests upping the amount of money set aside for worker's pension from

the current 17.5% of the worker's salary, of which the employer pays 12%, to 21%.

Negotiations between the employers, the Histadrut and the government would determine the breakdown of the payment. The bill also stipulates that pension funds would not be able to reject candidates seeking to join.

Namir said the bill would not only create less of a dependency on social benefits, but also would create greater mobility in the work force, since the pension would be linked to the worker, and not to the workplace.

"This is an extremely necessary bill, a humane and progressive bill that will guarantee each citizen a respectable living in their old age without becoming a burden on the public," Namir said.

Court extends temporary injunction against Ares Sero

RACHEL NEIMAN

A TEMPORARY injunction against Ares Sero, the Swiss-based majority shareholder in the Rehovot-based biotech company InterPharm, has been extended until September.

An expedited hearing of a shareholder's suit filed in the New York Southern District Court seeking to prohibit the company from proceeding with its tender offer for all the shares in InterPharm it does not already own was held yesterday in Tel Aviv.

Ares Sero announced last week it would extend its cash tender offer for all outstanding ordinary shares of InterPharm Laboratories at \$22.00 per share.

A related suit filed in Tel Aviv by the shareholders opposes the sale of a cell bank by InterPharm to another Ares Sero subsidiary.

The shareholders claim information was withheld from them, and the agreement of sale was a violation of their rights.

"They oppose the fact that he [Ares Sero] is emptying the company of all its property, patents and know-how," said attorney Yossi Segov, who represents the minority shareholders.

Segov claims the Swiss company wishes to transfer technology without paying royalties to the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS), the partnership with the Weizmann Institute or the shareholders.

Ares Sero said a cell bank sale was executed to expand the registration of the final formulation of the company's r-hIFN-beta product.

The company also says the cell bank contains no unique or proprietary know-how and did not require permission from the OCS.

However, the OCS issued a letter to InterPharm last week, warning of legal action if the cell bank was not returned immediately, on the grounds of transfer of know-how without permission.

A meeting was held Sunday between Ares Sero, InterPharm and the OCS. Immediately afterwards, Ares Sero issued a statement that "the chief scientist is

issuing a press release ... [confirming] approval that recombinant beta interferon would also be manufactured outside of Israel."

Chief scientist Dr. Yehoshua

Gleitman strongly denied the statement.

"We agreed to extend the warning period ... [which] would serve as a basis for negotiation," he said. "I am just at the beginning."

The OCS is less concerned with the shareholders' issues, calling the group's efforts "an attempt to capitalize on their investment."

The return of the cell bank is only third on the OCS's list of demands from Ares Sero.

The government's primary concern is the return of all technology Ares Sero may have transferred out of the country. The second is notification, binding it to register r-hIFN-beta solely to InterPharm.

"Their message is that we're trying to take technology out of Israel, which is not true," said Christophe Lamps, director of corporate communications for Ares Sero.

Regarding the tender offer, he said the company insists the price offered is fair and does not intend to increase the offer.

Ares Sero pointed to its long-standing record, as one of the first international companies to invest on a large scale here.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Shekel drops 0.53% against dollar to NIS 3.06: A strong dollar in world markets and surplus demand for foreign currency locally drove the shekel down 0.53 percent to NIS 3.06 against the dollar. The shekel fell a more moderate 0.23% against the currency basket to NIS 3.315.

Rafael's management, workers agree to talks: Rafael's management agreed yesterday to retract letters sent to 350 employees asking them to take voluntary retirement. The retraction came after the works committee agreed to three days of marathon talks to discuss the workers' future at the weapons development authority.

The works committee, in turn, agreed to rescind its directive forbidding workers to carry out assignments outside the plant, until the end of the talks. The two sides reached the deal when it became clear management intended to carry out its threat to dismiss the 350 workers at the standard level of compensation, rather than the enhanced compensation offered under voluntary retirement, unless sanctions were stopped.

Yigal Kotzer

Robomatrix gets \$3.9 million order from Boeing: Robomatrix Technologies has received its largest order to date, a \$3.9 million contract with Boeing, to provide robotic drilling systems for aircraft. Features include digital inspection and precise drilling through aluminum, titanium and other metals. The system is Boeing's third purchase from Robomatrix, which will be supplied over the third quarter of 1995.

ECI buys 30.3% share in TelGate: ECI has agreed to purchase a 30.3% share, valued at \$1.6 million, in TelGate. The investment will be executed in stages, pending TelGate's meeting of deadline at each stage. The initial investment will be \$700,000. As part of a policy to invest in communications, TelGate was founded last year by Aryat Industries and Arie Aloni. Yozma Venture capital became a shareholder earlier this year. Aryat has the option of purchasing Yozma's shares, bringing its total holdings in the company to 52%.

Nakash asks court to delay appointing liquidator: Former North American Bank director Joseph Nakash yesterday asked the Supreme Court to delay implementation of an order appointing a liquidator for his holdings in Nakash Brothers Realty, since the court has not yet ruled on his request for permission to appeal the order.

The order was issued in May by the Jerusalem District Court, in hopes that a liquidator could raise the NIS 482 million Nakash was fined by the court for his role in the collapse of North American Bank. Nakash has so far refused to pay the fine.

Bank Discount appoints new comptroller: Bank Discount yesterday appointed Yossef Cohen as the bank's comptroller. Cohen will take over from Raphael Ben-Baruch, who is retiring. Cohen, an accountant, joined Bank Discount in 1978.

IFRIC renews working capital guarantees plan: The Israel Foreign Risk Insurance Company yesterday announced it is renewing its working capital guarantees plan after a four-month period during which it refrained from providing guarantees. The company said it is willing to give up to \$200,000 in guarantees to each exporter.

R&D talks with Europe said near completion

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE issue of cooperation with the European Union on industrial research and development will be resolved at the European Union's ministers board meeting next week in Luxembourg. Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish said yesterday.

Harish said he met with EU commissioners in Brussels last week in an attempt to get the talks on a new Free Trade Agreement back on track.

He said Israel's participation in the European Union's new industrial research and development plan is the real test for economic cooperation with the European Union.

Harish wants the Europeans to open their markets to Israeli firms' participation in research and development projects by giving Israel similar treatment to the one afforded to European companies.

Harish said Israel is negotiating a deal, under comparable conditions, with Belgium and has already reached an agreement with Holland and Spain.

England and France are the only countries which object to the agreement, Harish said.

He said Israel's negative trade deficit with the European Union increases every year. Last year it grew to \$5.65 billion from NIS 4.91b. in the previous year.

Harish: Israel Chemicals should move its headquarters from Ramat Gan to Beersheba

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ISRAEL Chemicals (ICL) headquarters should be moved from Ramat Gan to Beersheba, which is close to most of its subsidiaries, Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish said yesterday.

Harish's recommendation to the ICL board of directors is based on the conclusions of a committee set up to examine the economic implications of moving management's offices to the South.

The committee, which was headed by Harish's adviser Amir Haik, was made up of Prof. Nissim Erna, Doron Kauman, Dafna Barak and Yohai Shohat.

"ICL offices are currently located in Ramat Gan, at the Diamond Exchange, which is very expensive land," Haik said.

"It's reasonable to assume that rent payments in Beersheba are lower than in Ramat Gan. In addition, Beersheba's mayor has promised the company property

tax reductions if it moves its headquarters south."

During the last few years, ICL officials have expressed objections to the move on the grounds that the company's business may suffer.

The officials said ICL public shareholders, who hold 25 percent of the government-owned company, are likely to sue the company if business is hindered as a result of the move.

"Not only is there no risk of damage to the company's business, but senior ICL officials claim the company's business is currently hindered because its headquarters are not based in Beersheba," said Harish. "The majority of ICL companies operate from the South and conclude international agreements there."

"I have adopted the committee's recommendations, and I appeal to ICL board of directors to



Harish: Hopes the company will decide soon. (Uzi Keren)

adopt the conclusions, even though a minister cannot interfere in the company's business according to the government companies law," Harish said. "ICL enjoys special status rights because of its size and contribution to the economy. The company should respect its major shareholders, the government's, opinion."

In reaction, ICL chairman of the board Victor Medina called on the directors to hold a board meeting to discuss the issue.

Survey: 30% of northern factories fear economic impact of autonomous areas

YIGAL KOTZER

SOME 30 percent of factories in the North fear they will be adversely affected within three years of the establishment of an independent economy throughout the territories, according to a survey released yesterday by the local branch of the Manufacturers Association.

Some 5% feared they would close as a result.

The survey polled officials of 151 northern manufacturers.

Association officials said they feared that some 4,000 jobs would be lost.

"The greatest fear is in those plants that are labor-intensive, such as textiles, leather and shoe factories," said Yossi Antwerp, chairman of the manufacturers group in Haifa and the North.

"There is fear among the flour mills that they will have to close."

He added that 72% of the plants felt they would be adversely affected if a free trade agreement was

concluded between the territories and Jordan.

However, the survey also showed that 71% of the firms were making plans to sell goods to the autonomous areas, since Palestinian officials have recently declared that they do not intend to encourage the development of joint ventures with Israeli companies.

"I hope the attempt at isolationism on the part of Palestinian leaders does not come to fruition, and that ties to plants in Haifa and the North will develop," Antwerp said.

Antwerp said in the past year, there had been higher industrial investment in Haifa and the North compared to such investment in the rest of the country.

"From the data it emerges that in 1993, 149 plans were approved to set up or expand plants in Haifa and the North, for a total investment of \$508 million, which is 32.8% of all such investment in the country," he said.

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Manufacturers Association slams FEPZ proposal

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MANUFACTURES Association president Dan Propper yesterday informed Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of his organization's objections to the proposal on the Free Export Processing Zone (FEPZ). Propper also expressed his dis-

pleasure to Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish and Knesset finance committee chairman Gedalya Gal.

The manufacturers said the proposal presented to the Knesset will result in unfair competition to local manufacturers, since companies operating in the FEPZ will be entitled to subsidies and other benefits.

Propper called on the government to significantly change the proposal before making a final decision on the issue.

Propper said the association supports a FEPZ as long as it does not harm local industry.

He said companies operating in the FEPZ should be restricted from selling their products on the local market.

According to the existing proposal, FEPZ products can be sold on the local market as long as the raw materials are classified as imports.

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Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.625	3.975	4.500
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.125	4.125	4.500
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.375	3.375	3.500
Yen (10 million yen)	0.600	0.625	0.675

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (6.6.94)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	RAHIMONOTES	Rep. Rates		
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.2850	3.3420	2.98	3.13	3.3098
U.S. dollar	3.0412	3.0941	1.70	1.67	3.0380
German mark	1.6202	1.6659	0.92	0.91	1.6417
Pound sterling	4.5748	4.6391	0.49	0.48	0.4637
French franc	0.5322	0.5407	0.52	0.52	0.5038
Japanese yen (100)	2.9875	3.0236	2.84	2.87	2.8025
Dutch florin	1.6219	1.6448	1.59	1.57	1.5437
Swiss franc	2.1467	2.1750	2.11	2.11	2.0723
Scandinavian krona	0.3943	0.3998	0.38	0.38	0.3697
Norwegian krona	0.4199	0.4258	0.41	0.41	0.3957
Danish krona	0.4694	0.4770	0.46	0.46	0.4437
Finnish mark	0.5508	0.5585	0.54	0.53	0.5137
Canadian dollar	2.2078	2.2339	2.17	2.27	2.1812
Australian dollar	2.2423	2.2739	2.19	2.27	2.1812
S. African rand	0.8405	0.8524	0.81	0.81	0.7837
Belgian franc (10)	0.8550	0.8674	0.87	0.91	0.8854
Austrian schilling (10)	2.6854	2.7228	2.54	2.58	2.4798
Hellen lire (1000)	1.6758	1.7021	1.64	1.64	1.5946
Jordanian dinar	—	—	—	—	—
Egyptian pound	—	—	—	—	—
ECU	3.6085	3.6591	0.67	0.67	0.6437
Irish punt	4.4798	4.5399	4.37	4.36	4.2437
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2110	2.2422	2.16	2.30	2.2390

* These rates vary according to bank. — Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Knicks finish Pacers, head to finals



NEW YORK (AP) — Patrick Ewing, intent on getting the New York Knicks into the NBA Finals for the first time in his career, played a career game to get them there Sunday night.

Ewing's rebound dunk put the Knicks ahead with 26 seconds left, and they advanced to the championship round against Houston with a 94-90 victory over Indiana. He finished with 24 points, 22 rebounds and 11 offensive rebounds.

The Knicks' 4-3 victory in the

Live on 5

The first game of the Knicks-Rockets series will be shown live on Sports Channel 5 Thursday morning at 4:00. Repeat broadcasts of that match will be aired that same day at 7:00 and 12:15.

Eastern Conference finals was built on effort, especially by Ewing, who appeared to win the game by sheer force of will. New York had 28 offensive rebounds — two short of the NBA playoff record — and they outbounded the Pacers 51-29.

"We were working for the jump shot," Ewing said. "I told coach, 'Forget all that stuff, and give me the ball. If we're going to lose, let me lose it.'"

John Starks scored 17 points and Derek Harper 16 for the Knicks. Reggie Miller, the hero of Indiana's Game 5 victory with 25 fourth-quarter points, finished with 25 points while Byron Scott had 17.

The Knicks, while improving their postseason record at Madison Square Garden to 9-1, increased to 19 the number of consecutive games won by the home team in seventh games of NBA playoff series. The last road team to win a Game 7 was Philadelphia, which won at Boston in the 1982 Eastern Conference finals.

The Knicks will face a Rockets team that made the finals in 1981 and 1986, but lost to Boston in six



ROUGH PLAY — Indiana's Antonio Davis (r) is hit on the head by the Knicks' Patrick Ewing. (Reuter)

games both times. The series begins tomorrow night at Houston.

By making the finals for the first time since 1973, when they won the second of two NBA championships, the Knicks gave coach Pat Riley a chance for his fifth title.

Riley's four championships with the Los Angeles Lakers place him

third on the career coaching list behind Red Auerbach's nine and John Kundla's five.

The Knicks, holding Indiana to 28 percent shooting in the third quarter, rallied after trailing by 12 late in the period.

Derrick McKey's 3-pointer that was released with one second left on the shot clock gave Indiana a 74-69 lead with 10:38 remaining.

A layup by Anthony Mason, a 3-pointer by Harper and a layup by Harper after a court-length pass by Ewing gave New York a 76-74

edge.

New York made it 85-80 with consecutive layups by Starks and Mason, but the Pacers kept up the pressure with 3-pointers by Miller and McKey, closing them to an 87-86 deficit.

Consecutive jumpers by Ewing and Miller made it 89-88 before a miss by Rik Smits and 24-second second violation by New York gave the Pacers the ball with 47 seconds to go. The Knicks then left Dale Davis wide open under the basket and Haywood Workman found him for an easy layup and a 90-89 edge.

Ewing, who also had seven assists, then put the Knicks ahead for good with his rebound dunk. Miller's next shot missed the rim, and Davis failed to control the rebound.

Miller's hard foul on Starks was called a flagrant foul, giving him two free throws and possession to New York. Starks made one of the free throws, but the Pacers had to foul him again, and he made both this time to seal the victory.

After Ewing started the second half with a free throw to bring the Knicks within three, they missed six straight shots, while the Pacers scored eight consecutive points for a 59-48 lead. Indiana later extended the margin to 65-53, their largest of the game, with 4:39 left in the third quarter.

But the Pacers missed nine consecutive field-goal attempts in a span of 6:25 as New York came back with a 14-4 spurt, closing the deficit to 69-67 with 30 seconds left. Davis finally broke the drought with a rebound dunk with 2.2 seconds to go, leaving the Pacers with a 71-67 lead.

Indiana, shooting 43 percent for the series, made 21 of 31 shots (68 percent) in the first half, but led just 51-47 as the Knicks grabbed 14 offensive rebounds, five more than their total of nine in the previous two games.

New York got its ninth offensive rebound at the 9:06 mark of the second quarter, leading to a jumper by Hubert Davis that gave the Knicks their largest lead of the first half, 30-24.

Then Scott took over, scoring 13 points and making all five of his shots during a 19-8 run.

Lara smashes 1st-class record

LONDON (Reuter) — West Indies batsman Brian Lara smashed the world record for the highest innings in first-class cricket with 501 not out for Warwickshire yesterday.

Lara's score, made on the fourth and final day of the county championship match against Durham at Edgbaston, Birmingham, beat the onship mark of 499 by Pakistani Hanif Mohammad for Karachi against Bahawalpur in the 1958-59 season. Lara, dropped by Durham wicket-keeper Chris Smith when he had scored only 18 on the second day of the rain-hit game, reached the landmark with a cover driven four off occasional bowler John Morris.

Trinidadian left-hander Lara, on 111 overnight, also broke the world record for the most runs in a day — 345 by Australian Charlie Macartney against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge in 1921.

During the course of his unbeaten 501, Lara, playing his first summer of county cricket, also reached 1,000 first-class runs for the English season in just seven innings — another record.

Lara's triumph comes less than two months after he stroked the world record Test score of 375, against England in Antigua. He has now hit seven centuries in his last eight first-class innings.

England wins Test

NOTTINGHAM (Reuter) — England mopped up New Zealand's tail before lunch on the final day of the first Test yesterday to win by an impressive innings and 90 runs.

The inexperienced New Zealand side was all out for 226 in their second innings after scoring 251 in the first. England, comfortable on an easy batting wicket, had scored 567-8 when they declared during Sunday's morning session.

Phillip DeFreitas took two of the final three New Zealand wickets standing overnight to finish with five wickets in the innings and career-best match figures of 9-165.

But it was paceman Angus Fraser who broke the stubborn eighth-wicket stand between Adam Parore and Matthew Hart, which lasted more than two hours and produced 54 runs.

Nearly half-an-hour into the morning session Fraser produced a fine ball which straightened back into the left-handed Hart and pinned him lbw for 22.

DeFreitas came on to bowl shortly afterwards in place of Devon Malcolm and quickly showed the fine form he had displayed throughout the match with both bat and ball.

Parore survived a vociferous appeal for a catch off his second ball and an lbw shout two balls later. The next ball he was dropped in the gully by Craig White, who fumbled an apparently easy catch straight to his chest.

DeFreitas, who celebrated his England comeback with 51 not out on Sunday, did not have to wait

long for more success, having Dion Nash caught behind off an inside edge.

The end came for New Zealand when the gallant Parore on 42 nicked a DeFreitas outswinger to Steve Rhodes for the wicket-keeper to take his sixth catch of the match.

Former England captain Graham Gooch, who turns 41 next month, was named man of the match for his confident innings of 201 which gave the home side a commanding position on the second and third days of the match.

"I'm obviously very happy to have won so convincingly and with the level of our performance," England captain Mike Atherton said afterwards.

"It's a pretty flat pitch to bowl on, so to have dismissed them twice is an achievement — especially to not even one of their top-order batsmen got a big score."

Ray Illingworth, England's new chairman of selectors, was also satisfied.

"People may say that New Zealand are not that strong but you can't ask the players to do any better than they did," he said.

New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford agreed his side had not come up to scratch.

"It's very disheartening that we failed to compete," he said. "The players are feeling fairly low, of course. Our all-round game is not good enough at the moment."

The second match in the three-Test series begins at Lord's on June 16.

World Cup keepers dare to be different

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Some love to fly from post to post and rarely stray from the goal. Others prefer to dash to the foot and block the ball, using their feet instead of their hands.

The contrast between the traditional goalkeeper and the goal-keeper-player is far from new. In the World Cup it will be more in evidence than ever before.

While Argentina's Sergio Goycochea and Italy's Gianluca Pagliaro seem tied to the goal line, Mexico's Jorge Campos and Colombia's Oscar Cordoba play most of the game outside the penalty area.

And keepers like Michel Preud'homme of Belgium, Andoni Zubizarreta of Spain or Carlos Trucco of Bolivia prefer a cautious, middle-of-the-road attitude between the two styles.

Campos and Cordoba are the chief exponents of the go-forward style, which has gained growing numbers of converts since rules were changed to ban the keeper from handling backpasses.

"Campos is the model goal-

keeper of the 21st century," said Cesar Menotti, coach of 1978 World Cup champion Argentina after seeing Campos play in the 1993 Copa America.

The Mexican keeper, who sometimes joins the attack, is so far the most skilled of the field-playing goalkeepers. He plays full-back outside the penalty area for most of the game.

This development affects the play, leaving a defender free to join the midfield or the attack and put more pressure on the opposing team.

On the other hand, keepers like Campos and Cordoba are vulnerable to long high balls which force them to scramble back to the penalty area.

An error usually means a goal. In the 1990 World Cup, Cameroon forward Roger Milla stole the ball from Rene Higuita and scored to eliminate Colombia from the tournament.

Cameroon has picked up on the Higuita style, having their own Joseph Bell, who despite being 39 likes to leave his goal.

TA gears for State Cup Final

DEREK FATTAL

TEL AVIV is ablaze with cup fever as its two soccer titans, Hapoel and Maccabi, add the finishing touches to their preparations for this evening's showcase occasion of the local sporting calendar, the State Cup Soccer final.

The National Stadium Ramat Gan is guaranteed to be brimming with color as Red takes on Gold in front of a packed house of over 40,000 fans. Roads to the stadium are likely to be heavily congested several hours before the 7 pm kick-off.

The countdown to the derby final has completely split families and friends in the soccer-crazed city.

The fixture is a repeat of the 1983 and 1988 contests for the silver trophy. Hapoel won the 1983 match 3-2, aided by a memorable goal scored straight from a corner kick by its current manager Moshe Sinal.

Maccabi took the Cup to the other side of the city with a 2-1 victory in the later encounter. The teams

also fought in two finals in the '30s, and another in 1941 before meeting again in 1967. Each side has won three of these meetings.

Hapoel has emerged victorious finalist eight times, with Maccabi well ahead in the honors' stakes with 17 trophy wins to its credit since the competition began in 1928.

Neither side has laid its hands on the Cup since the last two derby finals, and Maccabi was beaten finalist the last two years.

Today's match is evenly poised, with Maccabi perhaps having a slight advantage.

For those who believe in fate, Hapoel's name looks more likely to be engraved on the winner's plate for 1993-94, as the club's last few wins occurred in 1960-61, 1971-72, and 1982-83.

In addition to becoming the city's pride, the winner will go to the lucrative European Cup Winners' Cup.

Baseball 'Dream Team' voted down

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — There will be no baseball Dream Team at the Atlanta Olympics.

The International Baseball Association on Sunday narrowly rejected a proposal that would have allowed professional baseball players to represent their countries in official IBA events, including the Olympics.

In a vote taken at a special meeting called to decide whether to delete any reference to the word amateur from the IBA constitution and by-laws, 48 members voted to reword the eligibility requirements and 28 opposed the change.

A two-thirds majority, or 51 of the 76 countries represented,

would have been needed to pass the motion.

"USA Baseball is very disappointed with the outcome of the vote," said Richard Case, the organization's executive director and chief operating officer. "We feel that baseball worldwide would benefit from the use of professional athletes in the Olympics Games."

Red-hot Braves sweep Dodgers

ATLANTA (AP) — Jeff Blauser's two-out, two-run double capped a four-run rally in the eighth inning and the Atlanta Braves beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 6-5 Sunday for their sixth straight win.

The Dodgers were swept in three-game series and have lost four in a row overall. Atlanta is 6-0 against Los Angeles this season and 18-1 against NL West opponents.

The Braves trailed 5-2 when David Justice opened the eighth by drawing a walk from Al Osuna. Darren Dreifort (0-4) relieved and walked Terry Pendleton and gave up a single to Javier Lopez, loading the bases.

Mark Lemke had an RBI for-out, making it 5-3. Lemke, however, was picked off first by Dreifort.

Dave Gallagher then singled, scoring Pendleton. Roberto Kelly followed with a single and after Todd Worrell relieved, Blauser drove a double to the wall in left-center field.

Mark Wohlers (5-0) earned the

victory with 1½ scoreless innings.

Expos 10, Cubs 5 (13) Pinch-hitter Freddie Benavides tripled home the go-ahead run in the 13th inning and Sean Berry had a three-run homer as Chicago suffered its sixth straight loss.

Montreal won its fourth straight game. The Cubs tied the game at 4 with a run in the ninth, and both teams left the bases loaded in the 10th.

Randy Milligan led off the Montreal 13th with a double against Dave Otto (0-1) and scored on Benavides' triple for a 5-4 lead. One out later, Mike Lansing hit an RBI double. With two outs, Berry hit his third home run of the season for a 9-4 lead.

Gil Heredia (1-2) pitched three scoreless innings.

Astros 4, Phillies 2

Darryl Kile allowed five hits in eight innings.

Kile (4-2) retired 10 straight at one point, and struck out two and walked three. John Hudek got three outs for his eighth save.

Mike Williams (2-3) went 4½ innings, giving up three runs and four hits.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Royals 3, Yankees 1 Kevin Appier combined with two relievers on a seven-inning win as Kansas City Royals completed a sweep.

Appier (5-5) walked two and struck out seven in 7½ innings before being relieved by Mike Magnante. Rusty

SUNDAY'S NL RESULTS: Atlanta 6, Los Angeles 5 San Francisco 10, St. Louis 3 Houston 4, Philadelphia 2 Cincinnati 9, New York 6 (10) Pittsburgh 4, Colorado 3 Montreal 10, Chicago 5 (13) Florida 10, San Diego 5

SUNDAY'S AL RESULTS: Texas 10, Boston 7 (10) Detroit 5, Minnesota 3 Kansas City 3, New York 1 Baltimore 8, Chicago 5 California 3, Milwaukee 1 Toronto 5, Seattle 4 Cleveland 5, Oakland 1

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	35	18	.660	
Montreal	32	22	.593	3½
Florida	28	27	.509	8
New York	28	28	.500	9
Philadelphia	26	30	.464	10½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	32	23	.582	
Cincinnati	31	24	.564	1
St. Louis	28	28	.500	3
Pittsburgh	23	33	.411	8
Chicago	22	32	.407	9½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	29	27	.518	
San Francisco	26	30	.464	3
Colorado	25	29	.461	4
San Diego	19	37	.339	10

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	31	22	.585	2½
Boston	31	22	.585	2½
Baltimore	28	24	.540	5½
Detroit	25	27	.481	7½
Toronto	26	28	.481	8
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	32	20	.615	
Cleveland	29	21	.578	1½
Kansas City	26	26	.500	4½
Minnesota	27	28	.491	5½
Milwaukee	23	31	.428	10
West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Texas	26	27	.491	
California	24	32	.432	3½
Seattle	22	32	.407	4½
Oakland	18	38	.321	11

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Two health funds ask Treasury for advance

Maccabi, Meuhedet accuse gov't of discrimination

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Maccabi and Meuhedet health funds, which have never received a state subsidy, yesterday demanded an "advance" of NIS 100 million from the treasury to cover losses "caused by the government's increase of health-worker wages and per-diem hospitalization rates."

In letters to Health Minister Ephraim Sneh and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, Maccabi Director-General Rafi Roter and Meuhedet Director Uzi Salant accused the government of "discriminating" against them. The two funds, the second and third largest, insure a total of 1.3 million residents.

The health fund directors protested against the fact that the government is willing to give Kupat Holim Clalit a no-interest loan of NIS 400 million, but has offered nothing to Maccabi and Meuhedet, which expects to incur their own deficits due to policies reached unilaterally by the government. On Sunday, the Leumi

health fund asked the treasury for a NIS 50 million subsidy to help handle its NIS 85m. deficit. Shohat said he would consider this.

Meanwhile, Haim Baranes, head of the unions of Clalit workers (except for doctors), yesterday called for an urgent meeting of the Histadrut Central Committee to accept the resignation of Clalit's board of directors and to appoint immediately a new interim management headed by Yehuda Barkai, chairman of Clalit's supervisory board.

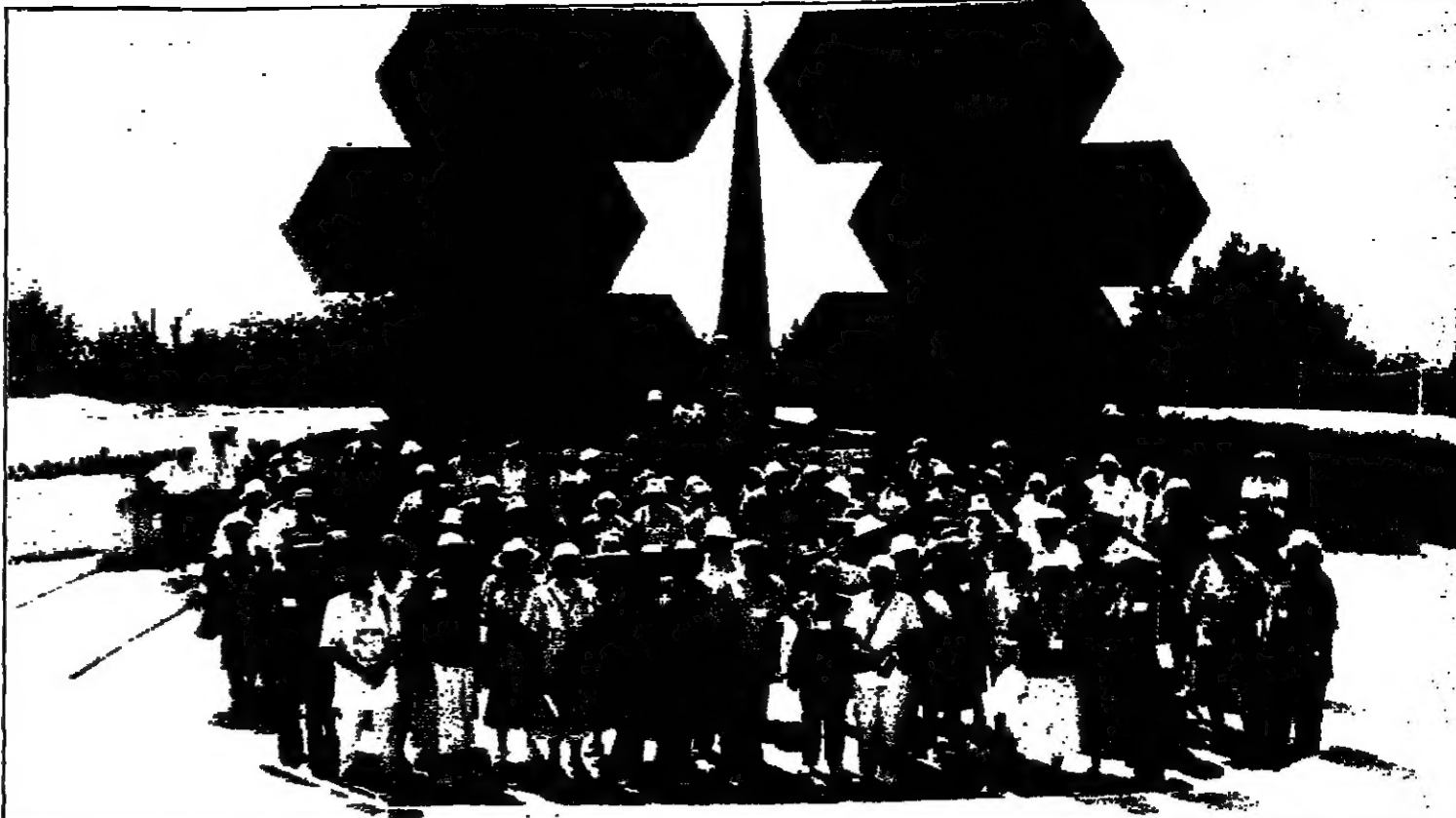
Baranes attacked the board of directors and accused them of bringing about the health fund's deteriorating financial situation. "Clalit Chairman Prof. Dan Michaeli and Director-General Avigdor Kaplan came to us not to protect it but to destroy it," he said.

Michaeli sent a letter to Shohat, Sneh and outgoing Histadrut Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld informing them that the health

fund is willing to take the NIS 400 million treasury loan, but only on condition that the board bears no direct or indirect responsibility for returning the money. Because the loan was returnable and too small, said Michaeli, "we can no longer bear responsibility" for running the health fund.

He asked those members who wish to resign to present it in writing within a few days, and requested a meeting with the two ministers and Haberfeld to "decide about the continued management of the health fund."

In another Kupat Holim development, Bank Leumi yesterday asked for a week's deferment of the court hearing of its suit against Clalit, which it says owes NIS 80 million in short-term debts and NIS 115 million in long-term debts. The Histadrut health fund spokesman said it will present demands for reduction of the debts by NIS 27 million. Clalit claims it was "overcharged" for linkage and compound interest by this amount.



Members of the "Kindertransport," a group of Jewish children from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia who were rescued from the Holocaust when they were transferred to Great Britain in 1938 and the beginning of 1939, mark D-Day at Yad Vashem yesterday. The second international gathering of Kindertransport children began its conference yesterday at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel in Jerusalem, where it will continue until June 13. With them was Bill Barazetti Le Moanier, international treasurer of P.E.N., the Poets, Essayists and Novelists organization, who was honored as a Righteous Gentile for rescuing some 600 Jewish children in Czechoslovakia who came on the Kindertransport. (Itzak Hiran)

Panel to discuss Clalit loan request today

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset finance committee will today begin discussing the government's request to loan Kupat Holim Clalit NIS 400 million.

According to the Treasury, the loan, which will bear the standard interest and linkage, is meant to cover the Histadrut's NIS 100m. debt to Kupat Holim from last year plus an estimated NIS 300m. shortfall in its transfers to the fund this year.

The Histadrut must repay the loan within three months of when Haim Ramon takes power, or face legal action, the Treasury said, in its letter to the committee.

The money for the loan will come from the immigration and absorption budget, since the number of immigrants expected to arrive this year now seems likely to

be 11,000 less than were budgeted for. Should more immigrants arrive, however, money for them would be found from some other source, the letter promised.

It is not yet clear whether the committee will actually vote on the request today.

"I don't accept the idea that we should be pressured [to move quickly], when the cabinet allowed itself to flirt with the Kupat Holim problem for the last two weeks," said committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor). "The government's hesitation caused Kupat Holim unnecessary damage."

Gal has asked both Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Of-

ficial Receiver Shmuel Tzur to attend today's meeting, with the latter slated to explain what putting Kupat Holim into receivership would mean.

Dan Tichon (Likud) said the Likud would demand the immediate appointment of a receiver at today's meeting.

"They [the cabinet] tell us everything has collapsed, and there is no longer anything to save, but they're nevertheless injecting cash," he said. "Meanwhile, the board of directors has fled, and there isn't even anyone to transfer the funds to. They don't understand that it's already after the twelfth hour."

Batsheva Tzur adds: Zionist Forum head Natan

Sharansky blasted the government's decision to transfer money earmarked for absorption to save the ailing health fund.

"The government is taking from the have-nots. This is not the first time that absorption budgets are being used to cover public deficits with the excuse that fewer olim than were budgeted for arrived," Sharansky said.

He noted that last year, absorption budgets had been funneled to Israel Aircraft Industries. "I wonder whom they will have to save next year," he said.

He called on the government to use the funds instead to solve urgent absorption problems such as employment, housing and education for immigrants.

"Otherwise, we could see the end of aliya," Sharansky said.

Comptroller to inspect Histadrut

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset law committee yesterday approved a watered-down version of a bill to subject the Histadrut to inspection by the state comptroller, after the attorney-general ruled that a stronger version of the bill would contradict an international treaty which Israel has signed.

The bill, sponsored by MKs Limor Livnat and David Mena (Likud), will now be sent to the plenum for its first reading.

The formulation originally supported by the committee subjected any "inclusive or national" workers' union, and any organization which such a union was involved in managing, to the comptroller's supervision.

Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair, however, said this would contradict an international

treaty on workers' right to organize, which states: "The public authorities shall refrain from any interference which will restrict this right or impede its lawful exercise."

"Because the comptroller's authority is so broad, and is not subject to judicial supervision... we came to the conclusion that it is not appropriate for a worker's organization [in light of this treaty]."

Justice Ministry representative Dan Orenstein told the committee. He explained that according to an international "committee of experts" that has interpreted the treaty, giving a government body unlimited ability to demand information creates a "grave danger" of interference.

Yair Hurvitz, director-general

of the State Comptroller's Office, added the fear was particularly well-founded because state comptroller's reports are discussed in the Knesset and form the basis for Knesset decisions. Such decisions relating to the activities of a workers' organization would certainly contradict the treaty, he said.

Several MKs protested Ben-Yair's ruling, noting that the comptroller exercises no binding authority — only moral suasion. However, they ultimately decided they could not pass a law which the attorney-general believed contradicted the treaty. They therefore added a phrase to the bill stating that the comptroller's scrutiny of workers' organizations would be "subject to the international treaties to which Israel is a signatory."

Lifting of MK Vanunu's immunity discussed

DAN IZENBERG

THE Knesset house committee yesterday began considering the request of Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair to lift the parliamentary immunity of Labor MK Yosef Vanunu, so that he can be indicted for bribery.

Committee chairman Hagai Merom convened the meeting in accordance with the Knesset House Rules despite a request by Vanunu for a deferral to give him time to confer with his lawyer.

The House Rules determine that the committee must meet at the first opportunity after a request to lift an MK's immunity is submitted by the attorney-general. The meeting was closed to reporters at Vanunu's request.

Since Vanunu was not ready for

a full-fledged discussion of the allegations, Merom asked Ben Yair to present a general description of them. Ben-Yair will detail the allegations and Vanunu will reply to them at the next committee meeting on the subject, said Merom.

The committee's task is not to decide whether the allegations are true, but whether the attorney-general is making them in good faith.

Vanunu is suspected of buying the support of an opposition councillor when he headed the Kiryat Malachi local council. Vanunu said he would contest Ben-Yair's request to lift his immunity, claiming there was nothing unusual about the arrangement he made with councillor Gabi Aloush.

Soroka Hospital financial status worsens

AMIR ROZENBLIT

SOROKA Hospital in Beersheba, owned by Kupat Holim Clalit, is reeling from the impact of the health fund's financial crisis, and hospital officials are concerned the latest moves to alleviate the situation may not be the solution.

"The decision to transfer NIS 400 million to Kupat Holim makes the situation worse than it was before the decision was made, because now we are in an uncertain situation, where there is no hope. All we will be able to do

now is improvise and fill holes. We certainly won't be able to plan anything for the long-term," said hospital director Dr. Haim Reuveni yesterday.

Reuveni said the hospital only has enough medicine for a few days, and noted that while the hospital owes money to suppliers, all payments have been stopped. Only those payments approved by Kupat Holim Clalit's headquarter

ters are being made.

"In urgent situations, we are looking for medicine in the health system, that is, in other hospitals or the health fund's supply authority. In the next few days, we will have to decide about reducing services or closing them down altogether," he said. Reuveni said that if there is no improvement in the situation, hospital officials would have no alternative but to start using supplies earmarked for emergencies.

'Namir doesn't have to have surgery abroad'

JUDY SIEGEL

A LEADING local neurosurgeon insists there is no reason for Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir to go abroad for the brain surgery she requires, since Israeli doctors could perform the same operation.

"Israeli neurosurgeons know how to perform any operation that the Yugoslav surgeon Prof. Winco Dolenz does, and just as successful-

ly," said Prof. Aharon Beller, who trained most of the country's neurosurgeons at Jerusalem's Hadassah University Hospital, Ein Kerem.

Beller, who retired nine years ago, was commenting on reports that Namir is going to Switzerland to have a benign brain tumor removed by Prof. Dolenz.

Namir, who has been suffering from headaches and the inability to concentrate in recent weeks, underwent intensive tests and was found to have a non-cancerous growth in her lower brain.

Her doctors at Sheba Hospital reportedly advised her to have the surgery abroad. Hospital officials would neither confirm nor deny the report.

Committee okays final draft of national health insurance bill

DAN IZENBERG

A FIRM majority was finally in place yesterday in the special committee appointed to legislate a national health insurance bill to make possible approval of the final draft of the legislation, to be introduced to the plenum today.

The committee voted 10-7 in favor of the draft, which includes a provision linking implementation of the law to approval of legislation guaranteeing continued funding for the Histadrut.

Committee chairman Amir Peretz will introduce the bill in the plenum today, although the vote on the hundreds of amendments will be held next week.

Representatives of the Labor faction, Meretz, Shas, the National Religious Party, the United Torah Judaism Party, the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality and the Democratic Arab Party voted for the bill.

Representatives of the Likud, Yit'ud and Moleket voted against the bill. They were joined by Salim Tarif (Labor), who backed party discipline.

Emmanuel Zissman, another Labor MK, abstained, saying the majority-approved provision contradicted the latest, and therefore binding, decision of the party's central committee.

Despite the cracks in the coal-

ition machinery, the majority in favor of the bill will almost certainly hold in the plenum, thus guaranteeing approval of the first national health insurance bill in the country's history.

The bill will transfer responsibility for medical care from the individual and private health services to the state.

However, it will not take effect until the Knesset approves either a workers' organization tax, which would apply only to salaried employees and go to the upkeep of representative unions, or a universal human service tax which would be distributed proportionally to the owners of the health fund.

Likud Party leader Binyamin Netanyahu, who made a rare appearance, described the bill as a "fascist, Bolshevik law."

The Likud representatives warned they would challenge the linkage provision's legality in the courts.

The wording of the provision leaves open the question of which tax will be legislated to preserve Histadrut funding.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin only wants the human service tax introduced as a last resort, claiming the Histadrut would only use the money to finance its bureaucracy and non-health services.

Dudu Topaz still rules the airwaves

LIAT COLLINS

FEW changes were seen in last month's viewing habits compared to previous months according to figures released yesterday by both The Second Television and Radio Authority and the Israel Broadcasting Authority.

Dudu Topaz's Friday night show still heads the ratings figures, according to the more detailed figures prepared by Gallup-Israel for The Second Television Authority.

Of all the viewers watching television during the hour Topaz's show was on, 28% were tuned to it. Dan Shilon's two talk shows came in second and third place with 24% and 23%, respectively.

According to the Gallup poll, which shows figures from both the New Channel 2 and ITV's Channel 1, the most viewed Channel 1 broadcast was the coverage of the Histadrut elections.

The IBA's survey, carried out on a smaller sample, show ITV's most popular broadcast was the European Football Cup Final (32.2%).

ITV Channel 1 viewers exposed to the teaser ad "It's coming on June 17" can stop asking "What?" The answer is soccer. Lots of it.

More than 70 matches from the FIFA 1994 World Cup in the US will be broadcast on Channel 1 and several more will also be shown on IBA's Channel 3.

From June 17 to July 17, ITV schedules go into "Mundial" mode with major changes in broadcasts to allow for the matches.

"We're going to flood every home with soccer," ITV director

NEWS IN BRIEF

US general: We learned from past wars

The lessons learned from the Yom Kippur War, the Vietnam War and the deployment of forces in Europe stood the allies in good stead for building the doctrine behind the Gulf War, US Gen. (res.) Donn Starry said Sunday.

Starry, who headed TRADOC (the US Army Training and Doctrine Command) and the Armored Center and School at Fort Knox before his retirement from the US armed forces in 1983, spoke to some 300 senior IDF officers and students of the National Defense College and of the Staff Training College on his Airland Battle Doctrine and the lessons of the Gulf War.

Tel Aviv theater wins in Dundalk

The Tel Aviv Community Theater production of *Sheidele* won two awards and two nominations at the close of the Dundalk International Amateur Theater Festival in Ireland Sunday.

Marc Schoen was cited for best supporting actor, Ofia Kaplan and Dawn Nadel were nominated for best actress and best supporting actress and the production won the Adjudicator's Award for excellence.

Four suspects held for bank robbery

Police yesterday detained four residents of Umm el-Fahm on suspicion of holding up the Bank Hapoalim branch in the Triangle town earlier in the day. Four masked robbers burst into the bank and stole NIS 22,000 in cash after one of them fired a warning shot in the air, then fled in a stolen car.

Libi Classic readies premiere

Libi Classic, the newest project from the IDF's Libi Fund, uses music and dance to raise money to support Libi's ongoing educational projects. The project's inaugural concert will be at the Tel Aviv Conservatory tomorrow.

The concert's centerpiece is the world premiere of *Trio for Piano and Dancers* by local choreographer Domy Reiter-Sofer, with music from the 23 *Preludes* by Scriabin.

Court cites GSS over Arab prisoner

The High Court of Justice yesterday issued a show-cause order asking the General Security Service and the police to justify their treatment of an Arab prisoner.

Ahmed A-Tun claimed that he has been deprived of sleep and kept with his hands tied for hours on end, despite the fact that he has kidney and back problems.

Man complains of acid shower

Police are investigating complaints by a Jerusalem resident that he was scalded by an acid-chlorine water mixture in public showers at the Lake Kinneret Hof Ha'on beach on Saturday.

The man was taken for treatment to Poriah Hospital, where a sample of the water from the shower was examined and allegedly found to contain a high percentage of acid and chlorine.

Rabin, Peres meet with Philippine FM

Both Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres yesterday met separately with Philippine Foreign Minister Roberto Romulo, who urged Israel to improve economic links between the two countries. The prime minister called for greater familiarity of Israel's private sector with the Philippine economy, according to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office.

The Philippine foreign minister is in the middle of a five-day visit here. He is likely to go on to visit Jordan and Syria.

Channel 1 goes into 'Mundial' mode on June 17

LIAT COLLINS

Yair Stern said yesterday.

Realizing that not every household wants only sports, an entertainment program called "The World Without Soccer" will be shown three days a week, between matches. It will be hosted by Yair Lapid and will incorporate coverage of the major entertainment festivals taking place this summer.

Most of the live soccer broadcasts will be aired at 11 p.m. or 2:30 a.m., Stern noted.

The *Simpsons* return to Channel 1 in the 7:30 p.m. slot, the exact day to be determined. *The Cosby Show* and a David Attenborough nature film series made for the BBC also have that time slot.

Other foreign purchases include: *Lipstick on your Collar*, a six-part series by Dennis Potter (of *Pennies from Heaven* and *The Singing Detective* fame); *Keeping up Appearances*, a BBC comedy; and *Watergate*, a BBC documentary scheduled to be broadcast simultaneously here and in Britain.

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